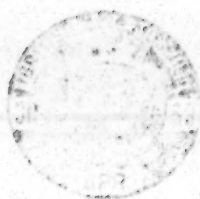


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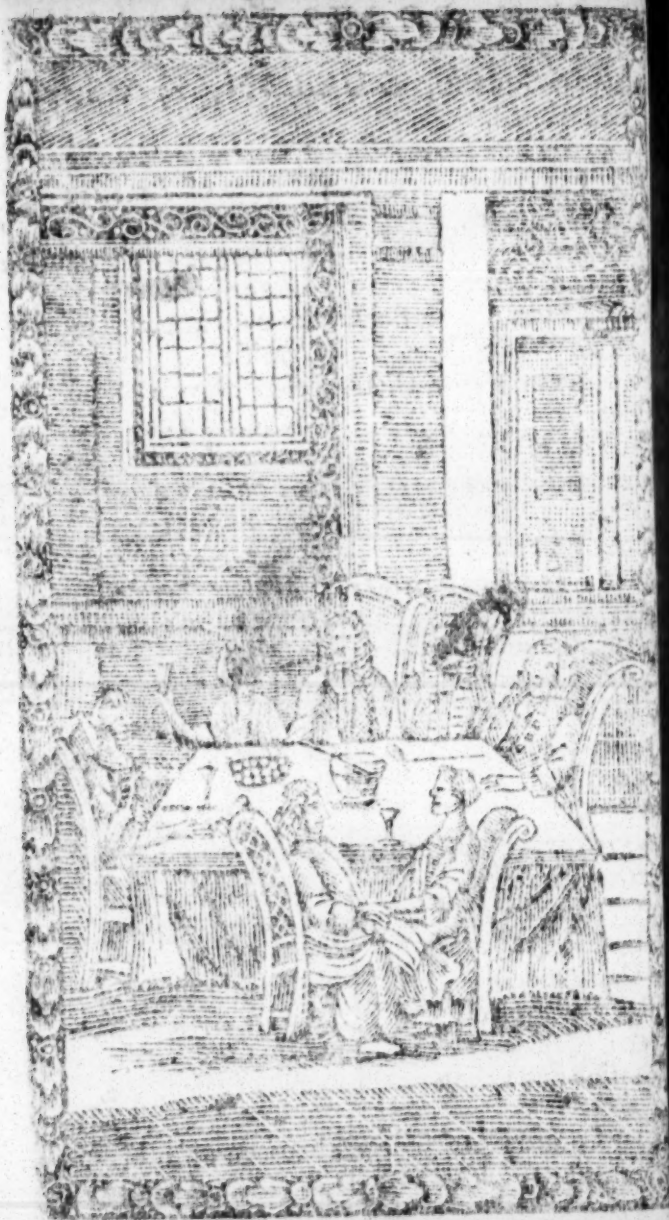
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STRATAGEMS

OF

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GIVING

An Account of the various Accidents, Intrigues and Events, which have happen'd to several Persons in pursuance of their Amorous Inclinations. Very Entertaining for Gentlemen, Ladies and others, in their vacant Hours. Namely,

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He certainly doth hit the Right,
Who mingles Profit with Delight.

W. B.

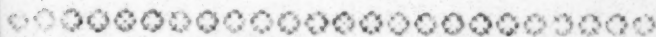
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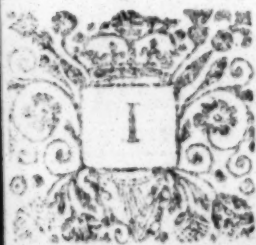
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NOVELS, &c.



NOVEL I

The Honourable Infidelity. A Nobleman in vain soliciting a young Woman to be his Mistress, employs his Steward to bring her, with great Offers to a Compliance who pitying her Innocency, earnestly dissuades her against it. She afterwards being left a great Estate, Marries the Steward as a Reward for his good Counsel.



IN the Kingdom of France lieth a Province, named *Perche*, well replenish'd with Woods and Forests, where standeth a Castle which gives Title to an Illustrious House of the Name of *Alverd*. The Lord whereof governed his Family with no less Prudence than Authority, which made him to be regarded and honoured, not only by his own Tenants, but by all the Inhabitants of the adjacent Country.

Soso, the eldest Son of this Nobleman, who much resembled his Father in outward Lineaments, yet was vastly different from his Humour; the good Man extremely abhorring Debauchery, and particularly Gaming, (wherein his Son was a great Proficient) because he was sensible that a wise-man never exposes his Estate to hazard, and that this Vice often swallows the Fortunes of a Family at once. His Son, like other Prodigals, to excuse his Crime, complains, that his Father did not allow him what was proper for a Gentleman, tho' he wanted nothing but what was superfluous; That Lord knowing, that to fill a bottomless Bag, and satisfy the extravagant Desires of unruly Youth, was equally Impossible.

BUT *Soso* being generally very fortunate, and winning great Sums of Money, it encouraged him to go on, and so by degrees the habit of Gaming was made, as we may say, natural to him, and he grows so famous, or rather infamous thereby, as very much grieved his Father; whose sharp and threatening Reproofs had no manner of Effect upon him. And whereas this Nobleman maintain'd his Port and Grandeur by good Husbandry, and other just and Honourable ways, this young Gallant appear'd so splendid in Attendants, Apparel, Horses, and all other Accommodations, that it was apparent he must either sink himself into Debt, or else by his tubule Ways and Methods ruin those who were so unhappy as to play with him; but the first of these not appearing, namely, that he ran into Debt, the second was concluded to be the means of his present Grandeur, tho' to the Scandal of his Family and Reputation. But these Children of good Fortune do by experience find

Twelve delightful Novels.

7

had, that they sometimes meet with Loss, that Cards and Dice are as uncertain as War or Arms, and that the most lucky Gamesters often lose all they get, and are reduced to Beggary and Misery.

It Play led *Sosio* into many Disorders, yet Love, who is the Child of Idleness, Pastime, and Plenty of Money, made him sensible how easy it is with the shining Metals of Gold and Silver to enter the strongest Towns, and overcome the Modesty of the most insensible Virgin. How many *Danaes* did he surprize with this Shower, and how many inconsiderate Women were dishonoured by him, by virtue of this sovereign Metal. It is evident that *Sosio* burning with a light sensual fire, it was soon quenched after Enjoyment, whereby he deluded some with Promises and Flatteries, but more with Presents, whose Effects are much more Powerful than Words; so that many yielded to his allurements, his conversation having strong Charms to move Affection; especially in the Country, where Women are not so crafty as in Cities, and Poverty generally reigning there, they are more subject to be surprized and deceived; especially when Gold darts its Beams into their uncultivated Souls. And again, the Nobility and Gentry in the Country do often proceed from Authority to Violence, not content to be Landlords if they advance not their Royalty into Tyranny, of which I am now to give you an example.

Sosio was inform'd that in a Village near Neighbouring to his Father's Castle, there was a young Maid, who under a Country Habit, appeared to be a charming Beauty, which made her the discourse of all the young Beaus that had the hap to see her.

He no sooner fix'd his Eyes upon this adorable Object, but his Mind was instantly inflamed with strong Desires to enjoy her, and flatters himself that by his Quality he may soon obtain his Wishes. But she being reputed no less Chaste than Fair, yet he did not doubt, either by Courtship, or what he had found more effectual, Money, to prevail over her Aversion; he then pursues his Design with the greatest eagerness, in hopes to satisfy his brutish Appetite, by dishonouring the Maid, who for her Glorious and invincible Chastity, we shall call *Castile*: She shut her Ears to all his Illusions, and as much as possible avoided his Company, not for want of Wit, or from Country Stupidity; but by being sensible what bad Effects Evil conversation produceth; for by her sharp Repartees, Dexterity and Wit, in Answer to his impertinencies, it appeared she surpassed the ordinary Education of those that were of the same Age and Condition.

Soto being no less disturbed by the Virtues than by the Beauty of *Castile*, at length pretended to change his Battery, and perceiving there was no Access to or Possession of her but by the Honourable Way of Matrimony, resolved to prefer Virtue before Nobility, tho' he was sensible of the apparent Difficulties that he should find in prosecuting his Design; especially since the discovering his Intentions to his Mistress, met with no Credit from her, or that he spoke sincerely from the bottom of his Soul, who had so often decaied her Ears with false Oaths and vain Protestations, and that his former Offers of great Gifts and valuable Presents, were only laid as Traps and Snares to ruin her virtue and Chastity, this be-

ing the common Fate of Lyars and Deceivers, that when they speak the Truth, and mean honestly, they are not believed.

In this Perplexity, the little Credit that *Casfule* gave to his Discourse, driving him almost into despair: He then resolved to attempt her by the Mouth of another, and thought none fitter for his Service than *Antonio* his Steward, the Son of one of his Father's Tenants; whose wit and fidelity he had former experience of. To him therefore he unbosoms the secrets of his Heart, assuring him that his Passion for *Casfule* was arrived to such an Extremity, that he could not possibly live without the Possession of her; conjuring him, that if he desired the Preservation of his Life, he should assist him in this Enterprize, seriously protesting that he absolutely renounced all his former Arts which he had employ'd to debauch her, and was fully resolved to marry her; but since he could not persuade her that his Intentions were just and real, he desired *Antonio* to persuade her not to withstand her own good Fortune, which with a smiling Countenance presented itself to her. But as Nature will rebel, he at length seem'd to intimate, That if *Antonio* could prevail upon her by any manner of means to comply with his unchaste Flames, both she and he should be recompenced to their own Content; since that marrying her, would be attended with so many unhappy Consequences; which yet he was resolved to venture, if nothing but Matrimony could obtain her Compliance.

ANTONIO was surprized at his discourse, and plainly tells him, That he wondered he should have such base Thoughts of him, as to imagine he would

be guilty of such lewd and mean Service, which said he, I should resent in other Terms, did not your Quality restrain me: *Sofia*, that knew how to change the Scene to excuse his Crime, My dear *Antonio*, says he, pardon my Passion, for thou art sensible that Love is such a Tyrant over Reason, that it corrupts the Judgment; 'tis true, I have attempted the Chastity of this young Maid by dishonourable Means, but my Desires are now purified, and my Flame is commendable, as aiming at nothing but lawful Marriage, and herein I desire your Aid, since the Employment is commendable; Sir, reply'd *Antonio*, There is nothing to mean but I will serve you in, provided it be not unjust and shameful, I will dress your Horses, Till your Land, my Birth not being such but I may count it an Honour to be employ'd in your Service, but to act contrary to Justice and Honesty, that I will never do, tho' it cost me my Life; for I had rather die with Honour, than live with Shame and Ignominy, I am sensible of the Difference between those Actions that proceed from Passion and those that are attended with Reason; I will object nothing against the Beauty and Virtue of this prudent *Virginia*, which would be to wrong your Judgment, for having made choice of her to settle your Affection upon; nor of the meanness of her Birth and Estate, for whatever the inequality be, Love hath so blinded your Understanding, as not to consider calmly of it; if you were independant of any but yourself; you might pass by all other Considerations; but being in Subjection to your Father, his Will in this Case ought to be an inviolable Law, and you can never expect he will comply with your De-

fires in this Match, whose Humour is so severe, that if he should ever be informed that I have meddled in this matter, tho' it should never succeed, he would certainly cut me to Pieces, neither might your own Life be out of Danger; and if you will proceed secretly in this Affair, without his Consent you know he hath Power enough to procure a Divorce, and an Innocent Young Woman would be undone and disgraced by my Procurement.

My Friend, reply'd *Sofio*, I will not contend with thee in this Matter, I am satisfied thou hast all the Reason on thy side, and I only Passion on mine: However I rather want Assistance than Counsel; find out some Expedient therefore to relieve me in my present Circumstances, and to raise up my Spirits rather than to drive me into Despair. Try only what thou can'st do with this Fair One, and if thou succeed herein, thou shalt not need to fear my Father's Vengeance, since I will take care for thy future security and Advancement. *Antonio* knowing with whom he had to do, proceeded in this Business with so great discretion, that *Castile* began to hearken to his Discourses, and speak with so much Ingenuity of the Honourable Passion of his Master, that her Looks were not so severe to *Sofio*, as formerly, mildness having already altered her Countenance towards him; so that *Sofio* at his next visit, observing the calmness of her Entertainment, returned (like Mariners after a Tempest) to his former Lewdness, and began to renew his Courtship as before, without mentioning the dreadful Name of Matrimony: *Antonio* served him with all fidelity and Loyalty, and *Castile* heard him with a chaste

Ear

Far while his Addresses were Honourable; but when he understood his Master's Inconstancy, and deviation from Virtue to Lust, he began to cry out of the profligateness of his Temper, and counsell'd her to be careful of her Chastity, and give no manner of Credit to whatever *Sesto* should propose to her; of which the Maid was so sensible, that she acknowledged the great Obligations he laid on her in preserving her Honour, which she more valued than her Life, and which should never die in her Memory. *Antonio* admiring the Wit, as well as Beauty of this Fair Creature, he now treated her not only with that Respect wherewith he formerly beheld her, when he assured her of the true Affections of *Sesto*; but declared to her his treacherous Intentions, to have seduced her by a secret Marriage, which he intended to forswear or deny, with as much Impudence as he used in the Art of Gaming.

It seems a natural Sympathy met in the Souls of *Antonio* and *Cassile*, who found themselves united in Affection, upon the first Motion of being joyned together, being assured of the Reciprocal Love, which they had for each other, and swore inviolable Fidelity to one another, protelling that no change of Fortune should ever alter their Resolutions.

The impure Flames of *Sesto* increasing daily, he in a desperate Rage charges *Antonio*, that he had betray'd him; who thereupon told him, that the Non-compliance of the Maid did not proceed from his want of Diligence or Faithfulness, but that he must needs expect to be rejected, when he changed his Style and Humour, and as I counsell'd her when you treated her upon honourable Terms, to hear

and

and look upon you as a Husband; so if I were now of her Counsel, I would persuade her to abhor your proceedings, as tending only to her Destruction; what said *Sofio*, in a Fury, I find it is by your Advice then that she Arms her Eyes with Disdain, and answers all my Addresses with Scorn and Rigour: *Antonio* replies, Sir, I doubt not but she is so discreet that she will altogether avoid your Company, for fear her Mind should be infected with your delusions. *Sofio* hereupon abused him outrageously, with injurious Words and Threats, and likewise discharged him, as having no further Occasion for his Service.

Antonio was very glad to be freed from the Service of a bad Master; but when he went to take his Leave of the Lord his Father, to retire himself home to his own, the Nobleman who had placed him with his Son, and knew his Deserts, retain'd him to wait upon him in his Chamber. The Father had already some private Notice of his Son's Passion for *Castule*, and was much concerned for fear his Noble Blood should be mixt with that of a Country Wench, as *Castule* was esteem'd to be, and hoped to penetrate farther into his Son's Designs, by the Information of *Antonio*, who yet carried himself with so much Prudence and Reservedness, that he satisfied the Curiosity of one without Prejudice to the other.

MEAN Time *Antonio* continues his honest Intelligence with *Castule*, and advertising her of the Enterprises of *Sofio*, he gave her Advice how to shun them. He continually treats her with Letters full of Promises of Marriage and Grandeur, but she had

so much Caution, and such Antidotes suggested to her, by the Advice of *Antonio*, that her Heart was Impregnable against all his Allurements. But the excess of Passion in *Sofio* grew to such a height, that he declared openly his Affection to *Castile*, and protested that he would either have her for his Wife or never Marry. This much discomposed the Father, who resolved by all means possible to prevent the Match, and charges all upon *Castile*, who indeed was the Cause, but as innocently as the Rock is the cause of splitting the Ship. If this Nobleman had conversed with this fair Maid, he would have found nothing but Innocence in her Face, Words, or Actions, but seeing with other Eyes, and by false Reports, takes her for some designing Creature, that by her Charms and Complacency made his Son doat upon her; and tho' *Antonio* assured him of the contrary, he was so prejudiced against her, that he procures an Order from the Magistrates to forbid *Castile* to pretend any thing in the way of Marriage to *Sofio*, and to charge him not to offer her any manner of Courtship for the future.

No sooner was this innocent Maid informed of this Sentence, but she protests to wish for nothing so much as to be delivered from his importunate Pursuits, intreating that this Act of Justice may be signified to him, that he might refrain his insolent Solicitings; and to shew her Reverence to the Magistrate, she voluntarily renounced by word of Mouth and by writing, all manner of Claim or pretence to this Marriage, whereof through Humility she declares herself unworthy: *Sofio* had likewise share in this Sentence, at which he only Laughs and Scoffs.

Scotts, as is usual with the Sons of Noblemen and Gentlemen, who despise the Formalities of Justice, knowing Laws to be commonly like Spiders Webs that catch only small Flies, but the great ones break through them, and grow more furious by meeting with Opposition ; He still pretending that he designed nothing but the Enjoyment of his Mistress by the lawful Gate of Matrimony.

THE Father finding that he could no way restrain the Passion of his Son, still charges all the Guilt thereof upon the Charms of *Castile*, and pretends that she deals in the Black Art, and had enchanted or bewitched his Son thus to doat upon her; and being familiarly acquainted with the Lord of the Place where she resided, he brings him over to his Opinion, and *Castile* is seized without any further Proceeding, and sent to Prison. This usage touch'd both *Sofio* and *Antonio* to the quick, the one Raves, Threatens, and makes a great Noise, but the other goes privately to the Judge who caus'd her to be apprehended, and makes him sensible of the Wrongs and Injustice he had been guilty of, in imprisoning an innocent Maid, without any Evidence against her.

THE Magistrate deterred by the Remonstrances of *Antonio*, and the Threats of *Sofio*, resolv'd at last, to set her at Liberty, and for fear of being called to an account for false Imprisonment, signs her Enlargement: Mean while *Sofio* thinks it lawful to repel one Violence by another, and consults with some of the Provosts Marshal's Men, who engage to put her into his Power, as soon as they had gotten her out of Prison.

ANTONIO,

ANTONIO, who had secret Intelligence of his Design, which tended to the Ruin of his beloved *Castule*, gives an Account thereof to the Provost Marshal, who was not brib'd into the Conspiracy, and prayed him to contribute his Power to the deliverance of this Innocent Prisoner, and not to free her from one Misfortune, to bring her into a greater: The Provost promised upon his Honour, he would acquit himself worthy of his Charge. The Lord of the Castle would not admit the Provost to enter his House; but to prevent his being guilty of Rebellion against Authority, he resolved to deliver her up at his own Gate; but here the Provost was opposed by some of his own Archers, who had been hired by *Sofio*, and were resolved to deliver her into his Hands; but the Catchpoles that were free from this Combination, being stronger than the others, they could not perform their wicked Agreement.

THE Provost then put the Maid safe into the Hands of her Father, who was a Husbandman; but the poor Man fearing the Plots and Violence of *Sofio*, by the Advice of *Antonio*, intreated a great Lady thereabout, to take his Daughter into her Protection, who willingly consented thereto, and resolved to secure her against all Dangers whatsoever. *Sofio's* Fury hereupon turns into Madness, because he could have no more access to *Castule*, and forgetting the Respect he ought to have had for this Honourable Lady, threatens fire and Destruction to her House and Family, if he be not permitted to see and converse with this Maid: She therefore complains to the Lord *Fluordal*, of the insolence of his Son, the Father whose Severity was very well known.

promises

promises to take care that she should for the future have no Cause to fear. He arrests *Sofia*, and confines him to a Chamber in his Castle, where he had time to ruminate upon his Follies; and instead of his jolly Companions and good Cheer, he had only the Bread of Sorrow and the Water of Tears, to comfort him; and tho' he pretended to repent heartily of his Misdeemeanours, yet his Father prudently judging that he sung this Song only to get out of his Cage, and would soon change his Note, if he came into the open Air, continued his Imprisonment for about four Months; During which there happened a great Estate to fall to *Casule*, so much the more welcome, as it was altogether unexpected for

THERE died a Certain Lady in *Tourain*, whom we will call *Mariana*, she was something Ancient, and in full Possession of all her Estate: Upon her Death-Bed she made her Will, and thereby declared, That in her Father's Life-time, she had contracted a secret and clandestine Marriage, with a young Man of *Britany*, who tho' a younger Brother and Poor, yet was a very compleat Gentleman, by whom she had a Daughter, whom by a trusty Servant, she had caused to be conveyed out of the Country, and brought up by a Farmer in *Perche*; That her Husband died in *Britany*, and that since the Death of her Father, she had detained her from declaring the Truth, and then discovers all the Circumstances necessary for finding out this Daughter, whom she declares her Heir, and in default of her, leaves all to an Hospital. She made a Clergyman related to her, Executor of her Will,

a Man of good Life and great Authority, who took a Journey expressly into *Perche*, and by Signs and Tokens given him, came into the House of this honest Husbandman, who was hitherto counted the Father of *Castile*. The Countryman readily acknowledged, That at such a Time such a manner of Man had delivered to him a little Girl, of such an Age, and with such Cloaths and Marks, and withal shewed him some Bracelets of Gold, with certain Cyphers and Characters on them, and confessed he had received a good Sum of Money, for bringing of her up, and a promise of a greater if he did preserve her carefully. All this was found agreeable to what *Mariana* declared at her Death, and in her last Will. From thence the Executor went to the Lady's Castle where *Castile* was refuged, and found in her Face so many Features of the deceased Mother, that he no longer doubted but she was her Daughter, and therefore received her as being her Guardian; and having largely rewarded the Farmer for his Care and Honesty, he carried her to *Tourain*, and puts her into Possession of an Estate valued at 20000 *French* Crowns.

THE News of this great Fortune, coming to the Knowledge of *Sofia* and his Father, made him wish that *Castile* might be his Daughter-in-Law, and the Son that he might have her for his Wife. But the generous Maid could never forget her just indignation against the Father, for imprisoning her, nor against the Son, for his insolent Attempt in so often endeavouring to dishonour her, and would never give Ear to either of their Solicitations. Hereupon *Sofia* reconciles himself to *Antonio*, and conjures

ures him to use his utmost Interest to make her comply with his Desires. *Antonio*, out of pure Love and Kindness to *Castule*, persuades her to yield to his Suit, representing to her the ancient Nobility and great Estate of the House of *Fluerdal*, and likewise the extraordinary Affection of *Sofio* towards her, from whom she could expect nothing but the utmost Kindness and good Usage. But *Castule* objected against his violent Temper, cheating Practices, and other Defects in *Sofio*, which were a stain to his Reputation, and made her hate and utterly detest him.

BUT Wealth was so far from altering the Mind of *Castule*, or from cancelling the Promises and Vows that had past between her and *Antonio*, to love each other inviolably, that she thus discoursed him: How now, *Antonio*, what do you find in me since Fortune smiled upon me, unworthy and displeasing to you? Hath Wealth changed my Face or my Manners? Do you take the Engagements of a Maid to be of no Value? And will you, who have so often blamed the false Oaths of *Sofio*, make me guilty of the like Crime: Are the Oaths I have made you of Love unchangeable, vanished out of your Memory; why regardless of your own Interest, do you espouse the cause of a Traytor, who hath done me a thousand Injuries? What have I done so displeasing in your Eyes, that I should be now disregarded by you? I am still the same I was, and no Change of my State hath altered my Will: I have so deeply engraven in my Soul the Remembrance of so many Obligations whereof I stand indebted to you, that I behold you not merely as a
Man

Man, but a tutelary Angel; since you have been the Guardian of my Integrity, from the Contrivances and Violences of the barbarous *Sefio*.

SHE would have proceeded, But *Antonio* kneeling down and taking her by the Hand, Madam, said he, your Discourse, if real, is enough to kill me with Joy; if otherwise, with Grief: I confess my Heart is not strong enough to bear such great Felicity as you propole to me. The Change of your Fortune had made me lose my Hope of retaining your Affection, but had not taken from me the unalterable Desire of your Happiness. Therefore finding there was now some Equality between you and *Sefio*, I wished you Lady of that House, contenting myself to spend my Days in the Rank of one of your Domestick Servants, for no farther did the Bounds of my Ambition reach; but you raise it up, even to yourself, by a Bounty beyond Example, and discover so much Constancy in so great a Change of State, that you make it appear to the World you have a Soul far above the Generality of your Sex.

HERE excessive Joy stifled his Faculties, so that he fell in a Swoon, when *Castile*, bathing his Face with her Tears, recovered him from his Trance, and confirm'd to him what she had said before, making new Protestations of her Love, but enjoining him to keep it close from the knowledge of her Guardian. Till she had taken Possession of her Estate in *Tourain*, and then promised to send for him and give him Possession of that and her Person.

THIS new Star no sooner appear'd in *Tourain* but she had many Pretenders, who were very de

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ious to raise their Fortunes, and so sell desperate-
in Love either with her Money, or her Beauty:
She then remitted a large Sum to *Antonio*, to ac-
commodate himself in all respects like a Gentle-
man, and that he among the rest, should come to
offer his Service to her. She had already gained
the Consent of her Guardian, that of all those
paradres'd her, she should have free Liberty to
take her own Choice, since nothing ought to be
more free from Compulsion than Matrimony, and
so gave her Voice for *Antonio*, having informed her
Guardian of the immense Obligations which she
owed to him; so that instead of disapproving, he
highly recommended the Prudence and Justice of
the Lady, who could not have sufficiently rewarded
him for preserving her from so many Hazards, but
by giving herself to him.

Sosio was at first much enraged, that *Antonio*
should deprive him of his Mistress and her great
fortune; but his Father having Married him else-
where, he lost in his new Match the Remembrance
of his old Flames. And thus the Honourable Fi-
delity of *Antonio* was at length rewarded, who
faithfully served his Master *Sosio* while his Pretensi-
ons were Honourable; but when he found he must
be employed in criminal Enterprizes, and unlawful
contrivances, he renounced his Service to preserve
his Integrity.

NOVEL II.

The Lucky Misfortune. A young Woman and her Lover fly from his Father's Anger, for marrying without his Consent. He is kill'd by Thieves, and she wandring about was met by a Gentleman who was taken with her modest Countenance, being in Man's Apparel, and brings her home to his House. His Wife falls in Love with her, but in covering her Sex, became familiar with her, which her jealous Husband resenting, fires a Pistol at her with Powder only, and frightens her to Death. He marries the young Widow.

MARCEL, a Gentleman of Tourain, coming from Saumur, was returning to his House, not far distant from the River Loire, and it being one of the longest Days in the Heat of Summer, his Servants staying at a Tavern to refresh themselves, he loitred on till he came to the River Side, when presently a young Man indifferently well Cloath'd, with a comely Face, very officious in holding his Horse and helping him to alight. This fair Object had such an Effect upon the Gentleman, that pitying the Youth's Misfortune, who had as innocent a look as ever he beheld, questioned him what he was, and whence he came: The Youth, with a mournful Voice, reply'd, Sir, I am an Orphan, having neither Father nor Mother, of the Province of Bologne, and am going to Castlereaud to find out an Uncle of mine.

Brother

brother to my Mother, to see whether he will receive me, or put me into some Service for a Livelihood. Young Man, said *Marcel*, it is easy to observe you were never brought up to serve, at least in any laborious Employment; it is true, returned he sad, if my Father, who was an honest Merchant, had lived, I should not have been reduced to this Misery; but upon his Death, his Debts were found much greater than his Effects, so that the Creditors carried off all, and I must now make a Virtue of Necessity, and seek my Bread where I can find it.

THE Heart of *Marcel* was mollified at this Youth's Disaster, and he resolved to retain him in his Service, in whose Forehead he saw the Marks of Honesty and Fidelity; and being weary with paying for his Men, he goes into the Boat with his Youth, who named himself *Geron*. He had a little Satchel at his Back, long flaxen Hair waving on his Shoulders, and a ravishing Grace. He held the Horses Reins when his Master mounted, in such a manner, as shewed he was not used to such business.

MARCEL'S Castle was two little Leagues from hence, which yet tired our young Traveller, who entertained his new Master with diverting Discourse to make the Way seem shorter. Being come to his House, and saluting his Wife, *Madam* said he, I bring you a new Guest, whose Countenance recommends him to your Service: I intend he shall wait upon your Son, (who was about ten Year's old) and I believe will keep himself neat and clean; and if our little Boy take after him, I doubt not but

but he will teach him Modesty and good Behaviour. The Lady looking on *Geron*, commended her Husband for his Judgment in chusing such a Companion for his Son, and the Child who was named *Sulpice*, was soon acquainted with *Geron*, and never pleased better than when he was in his Company, who was always very diligent and ready to serve him; so that the Father and Mother were extremely satisfied therewith, and all the Servants strove who should Love him most, nothing being so Charming or Obliging as this Youth's Conversation.

But tho' Beauty be the Gift of Heaven, yet it proves often a pleasing Illusion of the Senses, and a dangerous Share to the Soul; and extends its Tyranny over the Heart of *Flavia*, the Wife of *Marcel*, who was tormented and tossed about between Love and Honour, being deeply inamorated with the Love of *Geron*, and could contrive no way how to make him sensible of it: At length she resolved to discover her thoughts to her Maid named *Lupa*, which she did tho' with much Shame and Confusion: But this Maid was infected with the same Distemper; so that to trust her with the secret, was in a Manner to thrust her Knife into her own Bosom. However, *Lupa* to conceal her own Sentiments, promiseth her utmost Assistance to her Mistress, tho' she designed the contrary; yet, thinking to have found means so to oblige *Geron*, that he should no longer continue the Disdain where with he had hitherto repaid her Love: She acquainted him with the strong Passion of *Flavia* towards him. *Geron*, who had often told *Lupa*, that

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abhorred all such Discourses, will give no Ear
any thing she said; of which she quickly acquaint-
her Mistress, and perswaded her to speak to him
self, since this froward Youth would not regard
any thing she could offer to him.

FLAVIA was wonderfully disturb'd that she had
vainly declared herself to her Maid, and not hav-
ing the least Hope of bending *Geron* to her Desire,
she resolv'd if possible to remove this lustful Thought
from her Mind: But alas! at the first sight of
this fair Object, all her Endeavours Vanish, for tho'
she is one of her Domestick Servants, her flames re-
vive at his Approach.

SHE sends for *Geron*, and discourtes him in bro-
ken Words and disjointed Sentences, like a guilty
defactor before a Judge, to make him sensible of
his Torment; *Lupa* brought them together, and
left them alone: *Geron* was surprized to find him-
self alone with a Woman, who by her Language,
change of Colour, and other Actions, sufficiently
discovered the Desires of her Mind, and with Eyes
fixed on the Ground stood immoveable; and tho'
 Presents were spread, her Promises large, her
tearful immodest, her Sighs vehement, and her
tears flowing in Streams from her Eyes, yet these
kind, these Waters, were as Storms against a
rock, for he appear'd altogether Insensible, which
length began to turn her Love into Wrath and
Rage, had not *Geron*, who was sensible of the tor-
ments of her Soul, on a sudden opened his Waist-
coat, saying, Behold these Breasts Madam, and
take no farther Answer, except you will see me
at your Feet.

THIS Sight fully satisfied *Flavia*, that *Geron* was a Woman, which in an Instant rooted all her previous Desires out of her Heart, which were succeeded by Pity, and a desire to know the Fortune of this young Woman, that she might yield her some Assistance in her Disasters; telling her, that since she had saved her from the Ship-wreck of her Honour, I promise you, says she, I will conserve your Sex as long as you please, and if you desire my Help, you may freely discover the Cause of your being in this Condition, assuring you of the Assistance you can expect, being desirous, both of the Preservation of your Person, and your Honour.

MADAM, reply'd *Geron*, Misfortunes are so contagious, that the very Recital of them doth occasion Disturbance in the calmest Minds: Let me not groan under the Burthen of my Afflictions, and not trouble you. Felicity by my repeating of them, but rest contented to take Pity on a poor Maid who puts her Honour and Life under your Protection.

THIS Evasion did but increase in *Flavia*, her Curiosity which is so natural to Women, and occasioned her to make this Reply, As Physicians know no Diseases, of which they know not the Cause, neither can I help you in your present Exigence, nor treat you as I ought, unless you discover to me the Cause of your disguising your Sex, in which there appears so much Nobility, tho' clouded under your present Calamities, as makes it evident to the meanest Observer, that you are a Person of mean Birth nor Education.

MADAM

MADAM, reply'd *Geron*, my Woes are past Repentance, since they proceed from the Death of a Person dearer to me than my Life; so that my Misfortune ought to be reckoned among Incurable Maladies, which will not let me long Survive him, without whom, all the Delights of this World, have no Taste nor Pleasure. In saying this, *Geron* fell a shower of Tears, which still increased the Desire of *Flavia* to hear an Account of her Adventures, to which at length, tho' with much Reluctance, *Geron* was obliged to Consent, and having wiped her Eyes, and obtained a truce from her Sighs, she began in this Manner.

MADAM, I am a Native of *Austria*, Daughter of a Gentleman, who was called one of the ancient Knight-hood, and named *Gratian*; he had divers Children, and I am his Second Daughter, and the Cause of the Dishonour and Trouble of his Family. I was call'd *Sabina*, which was the Name of my Mother, who died when I was but Six Years of Age. It is a great unhappiness when Daughters leave their Mothers in their Childhood, their widowed Fathers being seldom so happy as to find discreet Governesses, who will be so vigilant over them as their own Mothers; and the Contempt of whose Authority, is the open Road through which young Women go astray: My Father and I threw off all Subjection, to follow our giddy Humours, Love Assaulted and took us; there was none but what I surprized as you will understand. My eldest Sister loved a young Gentleman whom she wedded not, but to obey the Will of my Father, married an old Gentleman

whom she never Affected, of which she made me such woful Complaints, that she seem'd to end the Torment, which it is said, that Tyrant inflicted, who fastened dead Bodies to the Living, & they expired in that cruel languishing manner. To avoid this Misery, I resolv'd to dispose of myself according to my own Inclination; but alas! to avoid one Mischiefe, I fell into a worse.

VOLUSIAN, a young Gentleman, But a young Brother, of our Neighbourhood, had my first Affections, of which I shall never blot out the Remembrance. We lived together some Years in perfect Correspondence, and if my Father would have matcht us together, nothing on the Earth could have equal'd our Felicity; but that unworldly Temporal Interests, which is the Ruin of so many Innocent and pure Affections, was the Destruction of our Happiness; since his not having an Estate equal to my Fortune, made my Father absolutely refuse to unite us together; but I fear the same Destiny would befall me as my Sister had met with, I was resolv'd to pursue a contrary Course.

VOLUSIAN always behaved himself to me with the utmost Modesty and Kindness, so that it was rather by my own Desire, than his Solicitation that we made reciprocal Promises and Vows of Marriage accompanied with many Oaths, and dreadful Curses upon the Party that should violate the same; that now you may imagine I easily yielded to the Desires of him who had already got the Possession of my Heart, and could not think I ran any risk to throw myself into the Arms of my Beloved: W

ea consummated our Clandestine Marriage with-
it Witness, I resolving, if I should find the Ef-
fts of this our secret Enjoyment, to take flight
th my Husband, rather than undergo the vio-
nce of *Gratian's* Anger.

MEAN while a more terrible Storm overtook us,
Minard, a Gentleman of *Austria*, a Widower, a-
out thirty five Years of Age, found something in
y Face that pleased him. He was a Match so
vantageous, that to see me, to desire me, to ask
e of *Gratian*, and obtain me, were all such sud-
m Blows, that I had neither Time to foresee
em, nor to defend myself from them. My Fa-
er, without consulting my Will and Inclination,
ad given me to *Minard*, and I must dispose myself
a few Days to receive him for my Husband: If
Thunder-Bolt had fallen at my Feet, I could not
ave been more astonished, I made no Answer to
y Father, for what would it signify, to oppose
ld excuses to his strong Resolutions, though I
sigh'd to thwart his Purposes, when it came to
e Extremity; so that *Gratian* took my Silence
r Consent.

NEXT Day my Amorous Widower came to Vi-
me, and after the first Compliments at our Inter-
ew, he said he came to offer me his Service,
th the Allowance of my Father? my Father;
d I, hath not oblig'd me to receive your Service,
d it is very severe that free Persons should be
ven away without their own Consent; I am born
s Daughter, but not his Slave; however, I de-
are to you that I belong to a greater Master, hav-
g made a Vow to him that made Heaven and

Earth, to dedicate the remainder of my Life to his Service. If it had pleased you to have seen me before you had spoke to my Father, I had save you the Labour of asking a Thing you cannot lawfully obtain, nor possess without Sacrilege.

NEVER was any Man more surprized than *Minard*, when by this open Declaration, he saw the Foundation of his Hopes undermined, for he was a great Bigot in Religion. He made no other Answer, but that he was sorry he had been so troublesome to me, yet he believed a Dispensation from my Vow would Remedy this, if I would adhere thereto; I reply'd, that a Dispensation suppose some reasonable Cause, and that I saw no Occasion to revoke a Vow which I had made without Necessity.

He communicates my Answer to my Father who falls into a violent Passion, menacing me with injurious Words and Threats; he got some Knowledge of my Affections to *Valusian*, and had strictly forbidden me to have any Converse with him, and did believe that I made this Vow in despite of his Prohibition, affirming that I could not make a Vow without his Consent: He was informed by a Christian, that a Dispensation might be readily obtained for Money, and soon procured the same.

ALL things are prepared for my betrothing, the Articles Sign'd between *Minard* and my Father. And now what Course should I take in this Exigency, I had not Confidence, or rather Impudence enough to declare my secret Marriage, which would likewise have expos'd the Life of my dear Husband to manifest Danger. We therefore consulted together

gether, how to prevent the Danger we were in, and at length concluded to retire disguised out of *Austria*, into some part of *France*. My Spouse had formerly born Arms for the Emperor in *Hungary*, crown'd with many Victories against the *Turks*, and in Case of pursuit we might Sail into *England*, and hide ourselves from the Fury of *Gratian*. He then cloathed me in Man's Apparel as you see, and in this manner we leave *Austria*, and passing through *Champaign* and *Burgundy*, Enter the *Burbonois*, to get to the River *Loire*, there to Embark ourselves for the Province of *Britany*.

But my ill Fortune still pursuing me, it happened, that in crossing a Forest, we were set upon by our Thieves, who gave *Volusian* two Wounds before he could put himself in a posture of defence, who then drawing his Sword ran him through that assaulted him, to revenge whose Death, the other three soon dispatcht my Husband, I being affrighted with the glittering of so many Swords, fled away into the thickest part of the Wood, where I remain'd till Midnight in woful Fears and Apprehensions; at last under the Moon's Pale Light, I began to seek what I dreaded to meet with, where alas, I found *Volusian* naked on the Ground, the Thieves having stript him, and pierced him through in so many Places, that it may be thought many were given him after he was Dead.

At his Feet lay the Villain he had kill'd, who was naked also, whose Face they had mangled, that he might not be known: I was so overcome with sorrow, that nothing but the heinousness of Self-Murder

Murder, deterred me from destroying myself; I pass the Remainder of the Night in unconceivable Grief and Trouble: If I should return to my Friends after so gross a fault, I was not certain how I should be received by them, and being in an unknown Country, I knew not what Course to follow: at length I resolved to resign myself to Providence, and to Travel towards *Britany*, of which my Husband had often told me. When I had wet his Corps with my Tears, I fled from that infamous Wood, for fear of being Apprehended and charged with the guilt of Murder.

HAVING passed the River *Loire*, I happened to arrive at the *Indre*, when my Master came to the River side; I helped him off his Horse, and to mount again; when we came on the other side he asked me who I was, I made him believe what I pleased: to conceal my real Disgrace, and my feigned Relation so affected him, that he brought me hither to wait upon your Son, an Employment proportionable to my Strength, and wherein I intend to expect with Patience how Heaven will dispose of me; and since, Madam, you seem to compassionate my Misfortunes, and I doubt are somewhat discomposed to hear the Account of them, I humbly desire you would pity me so far, as to conceal that Secret which you have commanded me to disclose to you? Whereby I may preserve that final Remainder of Honour, which a miserable Creature doth yet retain, and whom excessive, tho' lawful Love to a Husband, hath reduced to these Extremities wherein I now am.

Gazon ending her Discourse, fell on her Knees before

before *Flavia*, who in sympathy mingled her Tears with those of this disconsolate Woman, and kissing and embracing her, promised never to forsake her, but hereafter to shew her the Affection of a Mother to a Daughter. Reason now took place, of unlawful Passion in *Flavia*, who now acted from a purer Flame of Love and Friendship. But it was not so with *Lupa*, who was much disquieted at the daily Refusals and Contempts of *Geron*, which the foolish Wench attributed to the Pride he took in the Enjoyment of his Mistress; and tho' *Flavia* had assured her that her Love for *Geron* was converted into Friendship, and that *Geron* was the most virtuous Youth in the World: She imagin'd this Discourse of her Mistress was to conceal her own Happiness in her beloved *Adonis*, tho' indeed her Suspicions were not altogether Groundless, for *Flavia* now considering *Geron* as a Woman, used a great deal of Freedom with her, admitting her into her Chamber at such unseasonable Hours, that the least credulous would be apt to suspect.

This raised in *Lupa* a desperate Jealousy, so as to commit a base and treacherous Act, which had a Tragical Event, and a Misfortune that gave birth to a Prosperity, which thus happen'd.

LUPA perceiving that all her solicitings of *Fair Geron* were but lost Labour, and stung with Anger at his Refusals and disdain, resolved, since she could not compass her Love, to revenge herself upon her Rival Mistress, as the principal Cause of her Disquiet; and thereupon gives such an Account to her Master of the secret Commerce between *Flavia* and *Geron*, with such probable demonstrati-

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GERON ending her Discourse, fell on her Knees before

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ons, that *Marcel* no longer doubted but he was dishonoured by his Wife. To revenge this seeming Injury, he pretends to lye abroad one Night, and by the help of *Lupa* hides himself in a Closet near his Wife's Apartment: *Flavia* took great delight in Conversing with *Geron*, and in hearing him relate the Affairs of his Family and Country, and of his Love and Fortune, who used to come and discourse with her when she was in Bed, 'till she fell asleep.

WHILE she was in this Posture, *Marcel* is preparing Fire and Sword to destroy those Innocents, as thinking he had now apparent Evidence of his Wife's Falshood. He starts forth of his Ambuscade, and with his Pistol in his Hand, cries out in a Rage, Ah! curst Woman, now is the Time thou shalt wash away my spotted Honour with thy Blood, and that thou and thy Adulterer shall pay Interest for the Wrongs you have done me? And without staying for a Reply, fires his Pistol at his Wife's Head, who just then turning her Face, the Shot only burn'd the Cheek of this poor Lady, who suspecting the Cause of her Husband's Wrath, presently cried out, O Sir, *Geron* is a Woman; *Marcel*, whose Sword was already drawn to end what the Bullet had saved, as if a flash of Lightning had dazzled his Eyes, stood in suspence at these Words, when *Geron* more dead than alive, cast herself at his Feet, and discovering her Breasts, assured him that *Flavia's* words were but too true; All to quiet his Mind under such Confusion as he was in, related the whole former History of her Misfortunes and unhappy Adventures, which drew Tears

from

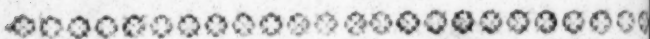
from the Eyes of *Marcel*, and made him earnestly Repent what he had done; mean while Remedies were applied to the Burn of *Flavia's* Face, which beside the Pain, threatned her with a great deformity. Women 'tis said generally grieve more, for the loss of their Beauty, than of their Lives; but whether it proceeded from the Inflammation, or the afright of a Pistol discharged too near her Ear, and the great Danger she was in, she fell into an high Fever, which in a few Days laid her in her Grave.

MARCEL lamenting much for her, both because he truly loved her, and that he saw he was the occasion of her Death, was almost resolved to have Sacrificed *Lupa* to the Ghost of his Lady: But when he knew that she herself had been first deceived, and the probable Circumstances of her Information, he was contented only to banish her from his House and Presence for ever.

GERON having now changed her Habit, and being become *Sabina*, appeared so fair in the Eyes of *Marcel*, that Love and Pity entering his Soul at once, he resolved to Marry her, as being a Lady of a good Family, and the Widow of a Gentleman: *Sabina* finding her Fortunes desperate, if she did not embrace the present Occasion, consented to make herself his Wife, and her Father dying soon after, *Marcel* had that part of her Inheritance which fell to her thereby, which was as good a Fortune to him as he could have expected, by marrying one of his own Country Women.

Thus the Misfortune of the inconsiderate *Sabina* is changed into good Fortune, and the moment of Time that she expected Death, was to her the beginning

beginning of a happy Life; and her wife Behaviour in the Government of *Marcel's* Son, procured her this Felicity, who saw his Tutor changed in a short Time to his Mother-in-Law.



NOVEL III.

The Cruel Fair One. A Wanton young Lady entertains several Lovers with such Freedom, that at last her Husband deserts her; and when she could not prevail with him to return, she obliged one of her Admirers to murder him: For which she was Reproached.

IN a City of *Sicily*, which is not named in the *Italian Relation*, lived a Lady call'd *Demonia*, who in her tender Years was married to an Ancient Man, whose Jealousy, Weakness and other Infirmities, deprived her of all the pleasures of Wedlock; so that she counted herself a miserable Slave to his perverse Humours; but Death at length restored her to Liberty, which she held to be the greatest Happiness of her Life; the difference between a Wife and Widow appearing unto her, as great as the Day seems bright and pleasant to him that hath been long confined to a dark Dungeon.

This Freedom she made use of to such ill purposes, as proved the Occasion of her Misery and Dishonour, changing the right use thereof, into infamous Practices; and to make it apparent to the World, that she being a young Widow, desired no

being of full Age, could not contract Matrimony without Consent of his Mother, who was yet living, and his Guardian during his nonage; neither could he acquaint her with his Intentions, as being certain she would never consent to the Match.

THIS crafty Woman, who yielded herself to others, by a far easier Composition, resolved to secure this Youth to herself, and at length agreed, That she would content herself with a promise of Marriage, upon Condition he would perform the solemnities thereof when he was One and Twenty Years of Age, of which he wanted two or three, at present: During which she intended to continue her former Liberties. *Fabio*, who to arrive at the Haven which he so much desired, could have sign'd his own Death, writ this Promise and Obligation with his own Blood, so much did his Passion at that Time Transport him.

AND now having sign'd and sealed this imaginary Contract of Marriage, he took possession of his much adored Object; yet no sooner was he ensnared in his Trap, and eaten of this pernicious Fruit, but he was soon sensible of his wretched Misfortune. The troop of Woers are not yet discharged, *Demonia's* doors are still open to all Company, she welcomes and entertains them with as much freedom as before. This was no way pleasing to our *Sicilian*; if he reprove her for't, she presently accuses him of jealousy, and soothes him with so much fondness, and so many Love Tricks, that he is constrained at last to ask her Pardon, for suspecting her Innocence and Virtue, tho' he himself is the Person wronged.

WHILE she continues in this Licentious Course,

he was extremely taken with a new Object, and this was a young Gentleman, who was a younger Brother, and had little to trust to but his Sword, tho' for Beauty and Courage he was inferior to few, having the Heart of a Warrior with the Face of an *Adonis*: And tho' but twenty Years of Age, yet had made appear the utmost Valour and Conduct both by Sea and Land, and gave promising Hope of being a compleat General. This fair Strumpet had by her Charms soon made him her Captive, and was no less enamoured on him; so that she fell to idolize him, and there wanted very little entreaty to gain her Compliance to his Will; and was obliging to him after he possessed her, that by his Allurements his Passion increased the more by Enjoyment; and they were so besotted with the Love of each other, that their Commerce was apparent to all the World; and *Fabio* had so much Reason not only to be jealous but certain of the Faithfulness of his Spouse, that he began to rage, and threaten Vengeance against her Adulterer.

At length he resolved to break the Bonds in which he was obliged to this disloyal Creature, and inquiring into her former Conversation, was informed on other Hands, that she was always reckoned a very Loose Lascivious Woman: Whereupon he thought it unjustice to renounce all his Promises and contracts made to her, and to render her infamous, as less more worthy of his Anger and Revenge, than of his Love. Having absented himself from her some Days in hopes to cure those Wounds by Absence, which his Heart had received by the Presence of his deceitful Beauty, *Demonia* would have fain continu-

him in his former State of Ignorance, and mistrusting an Alteration in his Conduct towards her, writ several Letters to recal him, who returned Answers so full of Reproaches for her wicked and disorderly Life and Actions, accompanied with such Protestations of abhorring her Practices, that she found he was like to make his Escape from her. And therefore, after she for a long while had employed her whole Art and Skill to reconquer his Mind, finding that he grew more obstinate by her Submission, she began to alter the Scenes, threatening to sue him upon his Contract, and make him perform the contents thereof.

FABIO was so enraged, that he scoffs at all her Threats, and writes an account of her Lewd Life so full of filthy, shameful and dishonest Truths, that *Demonia* animated with a furious Despair, vowed to revenge herself or die in the Attempt. But finding that she was unable to perform so notable a Deed, and despairing of recalling this Fugitive, and so to do him some Mischief when he was in her Power, she imagined that the ready way to perform her bloody design, would be to engage her new Favourite *Ricardo* therein, who being desperately intangled in her Love, would hazard his Life in all Dangers whatever to content her.

THE Reproaches which *Fabio* openly vented in all Companies against this pestilent Woman, made her Odious to the World, and every one talk'd of her Lewdness with *Ricardo*, who being of noble Blood and a Man of great Courage, was mightily enraged to hear these Invectives, which so nearly touch'd his Honour and Reputation, and was with-

out much Difficulty perswaded by the Charms and Tears of *Demonia* to revenge her and himself likewise, by the Death of *Fabio*; vowing by her Eyes, which he called the Light of his Soul, that he would not Sleep 'till he had presented her with his Heart and Tongue: And accordingly watching a convenient Opportunity, in the Company of some Brave's as the Manner of *Italy* is, he took him at such an Advantage, that he ran him through in divers Places, and left him Dead upon the Place.

THE Relations of the Murder'd Man, being the most eminent Persons of the City, made strict Inquisition after *Ricardo*; and in a short Time, he was seized, and by the Governor committed to Prison, and in an obscure Dungeon had time to ruminate upon his Folly, and the Heinousness of his Crime, whereof he could hope for no Pardon, Since he had such powerful Adversaries, and could expect nothing but Death. He then declared the truth of the whole Matter, and Acknowledged, that nothing but the Counsels and Perswasions of *Demonia* had prevailed with him to commit so detestable an Act, of which he now repented from the very bottom of his Heart: *Demonia* thereupon is taken, and put into safe Custody; she denying nothing of what *Ricardo* had confessed, but boldly confirmed and justified the same, asserting, That she had sufficient Reason to avenge herself upon him, whom she found a perfidious Traytor, and Violator of her Credit and Honour: However, upon hearing the whole matter all the Judges were of Opinion that she deserved Death: But as to *Ricardo*, who was deluded by this accursed Woman, his Case raised Compassion

on in all that heard of it; especially considering his Honourable Birth, and consummate Courage, and that he was in the Prime of his Years; But his Parents and Kindred doubting, that the manner of his Death would be an everlasting Reproach to their Family and Generation; they with Money corrupted the Jaylor, who gave him an opportunity to make his Escape. Within few Days, Sentence was pronounced against this wretched Woman, who was condemned (because of her Family) to lose her Head on a Scaffold, which she suffered Accordingly, and *Ricardo* would have had the same Fate, could he have been retaken.

AFTER this, the Friends of *Ricardo* began to treat with *Fabio's* Relations, and to appease them for his Death; so that at length, the Consideration of *Ricardo's* Valour, which made him famous in *Anders*, prevailed upon them to pardon his Fault with Liberty to return to his Country, where he confirmed the common Maxim, That the unfortunate are often punished, and the Guilty Escape: However, there is no Question to be made but that *De-avia* was more Criminal than he, since he only lent his Arm to the Execution of that Vengeance, which the cursed Allurements had inspired him withal.

WHICH may be a caution to Youth to avoid those impudent Women, who not only debauch them with Fleishly Lusts, but often invite them to commit such Nefarious and Bloody Actions, as lay them to Shame and utter Confusion.

NOVEL IV.

The Unparallel'd Friendship. A Gentleman being assaulted in the Night by his Rival under his Mistress's Window; Kills him in his own defence, by which he was condemn'd to die; but his Friend assisted, was very desirous to suffer for him: They were both pardoned, and the Gentleman obtained the Lady.

OCTAVIO and Leontine, two young Gentlemen of Lithuania took such an Affection to each other in their Youth, which with their Age so increased, that it was expected their Friendship might have been as much celebrated as some have been in ancient Histories. Their Parents were loving Friends and Neighbours, living in the City of Vilna, the principal of that Country; but the Friendship was common and vulgar, in Comparison of that of their Children, which they rejoiced in leaving them to their own Liberty, to improve it in their Familiar Conversation. This so increased their Endeavours, and occasion'd such a mutual Correspondence, that they both seem'd to have but one Will and one Soul divided into two Bodies.

If one had any reasonable and just Design, the other would offer his Assistance for promoting the same; and if he thought it unreasonable and unjust, would endeavour to dissuade him from it, which the other would not refuse to comply with, for fear of grieving his Friend, who had thus reduced his Mind to act nothing but what was Honest and Convenient.

The

They learned together in the Academy, all the Exercises that were proper for their Birth and Quality wherein by a praise-worthy Emulation they surpassed all their Fellows. The Passions which most affected, and influence Youth are Quarrels and Love, in both which they assisted each other with the most inviolable Fidelity, so that the Interest of one seemed always to be the same with the other, without the least Jealousy or suspicion of any Sinister Design in the other towards him.

At length it happen'd, that *Octavio* placed his Affection upon a Person of so much Honour, that there was no Pretence to court or attain her, but by the sacred tie of Matrimony. Love is naturally Blind, and can never foresee the Consequences which often happen to disturb young Lovers in prosecuting their desires. The excellent Accomplishments of *Paulina*, one of the gentlest Ladies of the City stole away the Heart of *Octavio*, who, besides her Beauty, had a very plentiful Estate: Which two Qualifications made it a difficult Matter for a Gentleman to have any Pretensions to her without some extraordinary Merit, and which made her less accessible to *Octavio* was, that *Gerardo*, Son of one of the principal Inhabitants, made Addresses to this Lady, and had obtain'd the Consent, both of his own, and her Parents, to proceed in his Intentions, so that he was in very Probable Circumstances to obtain her.

BUT *Paulina* had a natural Antipathy and secret Aversion to the proud and haughty Humour of *Gerardo*, who was so Arrogant, both in his Carriage and Discourse, as if he could Command her Affections;

tions; who expected that fondness and Flattery with which young Virgins are generally pleased, before they surrender their Freedoms to the Power of their Husbands; so that instead of gaining her Love, his Vanity made him Odious to her: Whereas Complaisance and Modesty, are such charming Qualities that few Souls are able to withstand them; and this made way for the Admittance of *Octavio*, into the Affections of *Paulina*, besides the other Advantages in the handsomness of his Person and Behaviour, which recommended him to her Choice. The Persecution which *Paulina* suffered by the Visits and Conversation of *Gerardo* made her enamoured with the agreeable submissive Addresses of *Octavio*, who with his graceful Demeanour, wrought so far upon her Mind, that the Offer of his Service was no sooner presented, but accepted and received by her; and tho' he had no Permission from her Parents to wait on her; yet she little regarded the leave which is so necessary to render Love lawful when it tends to Marriage, and had so great a Passion for him, that she could no longer conceal it, and by her Actions discovered the same so apparently that proud *Gerardo* was at length acquainted with it, and was so enraged against his Rival, that he resolved to rid him out of the World with the first Opportunity.

ALTHOUGH *Octavio* was not so Rich, nor of such antient Nobility; yet he was a Gentleman and of such a courageous Spirit, that he would endure any Bravado's or Affronts, and *Gerardo* having told him, That he must renounce all his Pretensions to *Paulina*, or else the Consequence would

fatal to him; *Octavio* reply'd, That he never understood but a Marriage Affections were free, and that when *Gerardo* should purchase the Love of his Lady that way, he himself would think of her no more; but 'till then he was resolved to Visit her, his Valour in this Case being as great as his Love: These Words caused several Replys and Answers, which had been seconded with Deeds, had not their Friends then Present prevented, and used their Endeavours to take up the Quarrel. But they were so much irritated to be easily reconciled; and *Gerardo* threatned he would make his Rival dearly repent of his Temerity, who replyed, He valued not whatever he could say or do, provided he did not Assault him Treacherously and by Surprise.

MEAN time *Gerardo* having as much the Possession of the Hearts of *Paulina's* Parents, as *Octavio* had of their Daughters, caused them that had the Power over her, to forbid her his Company, and that he should not be suffer'd to enter the House, endeavouring therein to oblige *Gerardo*, whose Alliance they desired, because of his great Estate, and noble Parentage. This so incensed the Lady, that she avoided all Occasion of being seen by him, and contrived all manner of Ways, either to speak or write to *Octavio*, who by secret Practices advanced daily into the Affections of *Paulina*.

Gerardo not being able to endure any longer the rigorous Contempts and Affronts of his Mistress resolves to make an end of all at once by the Death of *Octavio*, whom he caused to be narrowly watched, and at length was informed that he usually walked every Night under the Window of his beloved Virgin

Virgin; *Gerardo*, like a jealous Person, that seeks nothing more eagerly than what he is unwilling to find, hides himself near the House, with a Friend of his call'd *Monfred*, and one of his Servants, a Lusty, tall Fellow, in whose Courage and Fidelity he much trusted; long had they not lain in their Arms, when *Octavio* accompany'd with his Friend *Leontine*, came thither to walk his Accustom'd Rounds, and at certain Signs which he made *Paulina* appeared at the Window, who entered into Discourse with her Lover, whilst *Leontine* walk'd at some Distance to give them free Liberty to talk.

WHAT furious jealousy did then invade the Mind of enraged *Gerardo*, who resolv'd to execute his Vengeance, and dispatch his Rival, having him now at Advantage. He Commands his Man to fall upon *Leontine*, whilst he and *Monfred* would Challenge the Insolence of *Octavio*: They all three start up at once, and with their drawn Swords attack their Adversaries; *Leontine* in two or three Assaults gave the Servant two Wounds, and laid him on the Earth for Dead, and then runs to assist his Friend, who called to him for Aid; *Octavio* by the help of a Bulk and setting his back to the Wall, put by the Push and Thrusts of the two Assailants: *Leontine* came on furiously, and the first he met at his Sword Point was *Gerardo*, and coming behind him as he was eagerly parrying at *Octavio*, ran his Sword to the hilt into his Body, and at one Push deprived him of Life. *Octavio* then fell upon *Monfred* giving him a slight Wound in the Arm, who had certainly met with the same Fate of his Friend, had he not sought his Safety by Flight, as finding him

self an unequal Match to *Ottavio*: *Leontine* came off without any Hurt; but *Ottavio* had two dangerous Wounds in his Body, from whence flowed such a great Quantity of Blood, that had not some Remedies been presently applied he would certainly have lost his Life. The People ran out of their Houses at the Noise of this Combat, and found *Gerardo* stark Dead on the Ground, and his Man some Steps farther, ready to give up the Ghost; *Leontine* holding up his Friend whose Heart faint-ed by loss of Blood, desired the Spectators to call for a Surgeon: When he was carried to his House he swoon'd away, and for some Time was thought to be Dead, but by proper Remedies he again recovered his Senses.

MEAN Time *Monfred* runs to acquaint the Parents and Relations of *Gerardo*, with the sad News of the untimely Death of their Son, relating the Matter to his own Advantage, and telling them, That they had been both Assaulted in a Treacherous Manner by *Leontine* and *Ottavio*, which Report takes such an Impression on them, that it is believed as an Oracle. Whereupon Application is made to a Justice, who gives out a Warrant for seizing and imprisoning both of them; upon which *Ottavio*, tho' sick and weak, was haled to the Goal, but *Leontine* makes his Escape, in hopes to Live and Vindicate his own and his Friend's Innocency, by declaring that they had done nothing but in their own defence, having been cowardly fallen upon at Disadvantage, and by Treachery. But the Case went quite otherwise than he expected, for the Parents and Kindred of *Gerardo* were so powerful and

and of such Authority in the City of *Vilna*, that in a short Time *Octavio* was Arraign'd, Try'd and Condemned by the single Evidence of *Monfred* (the Servant being Dead) who was both Party and Witness, and this poor Gentleman was Sentenced to lose his Head.

THE Day of his Execution being come, he was brought upon the Scaffold, and altho' he solemnly declared he was not the Aggressor, nor did perpetrate the Murder, yet the Executioner was preparing to do his Office, when on a sudden *Leontine* making way through the Croud with admirable Courage, and with a loud Voice, cried out to the Hangman to free the Innocent, and to turn his Sword on him, who was not only Guilty as an Accessary, but the real Actor in the Killing *Gerardo* and his Servant. He then clearly and distinctly, with a Countenance that outbraved Death, declared to the Magistrate who was present to see the Execution, the whole Affair as we have now related it, adding, That if a Man must dye for defending his own Life, he was there ready to yield his Head to the Stroke of the Executioner, upon Condition his Friend might be set at Liberty. All the Company were struck with Admiration to observe this generous Act, and the People beginning to fall into a Mutiny, cried out, *Pardon, Pardon*, resolving to kill all that were concerned in the Prosecution, rather than suffer *Leontine* to be Executed.

THE Tumult began to encrease, so that the Judge nor *Octavio* could not be heard, who would have willingly spoke to the Multitude. At length the Justice Commanded that the Execution should be suspended

suspended, and that *Leontine* surrendering himself a Prisoner, the Cause should be reheard, and Judged according to Equity. It was somewhat difficult to lead the two Friends to Prison, because the People being in an Uproar, would willingly have rescued and delivered them.

THE *Palatine*, or Governor of *Vilna*, having heard of this incomparable Generosity of *Leontine*, went himself to visit these two Friends in Prison, who both confessed before him which of them should die for his fellow. The *Palatine* heard the Account of the two Lovers, *Octavio* and *Paulina*, the Threats and Practices of *Gerardo* to disturb their Amours. *Monfred* was examined Face to Face, who was constrained by the force of Truth, to acknowledge, that an ambuscade was lain, and that they were three against two, and were the Occasion of the Death of the Master and Man.

LEONTINE then pleaded the Merit of his own Death, declaring, that he only ought to lose his Head, since he only had Killed; it for killing in his own defence, and for preserving his Friend from being basely Murdered, were a Cause that deserved Punishment: Nay, rather Honour and Reward, said the *Palatine*, and thereupon freed them out of Prison, and gave them his Pardon, according to the Power that *Palatines* have, by whom the Province of *Lithuania* is governed, who are petty Sovereigns in their *Palatinates*. *Monfred*, as a busy and treacherous Wretch, was imprisoned in the same Place; and had on a Scaffold been made a Spectacle to the People, had not his Parents and Friends by their Credit and earnest Solicitations, procured the Sentence

tence of Death to be changed into Banishment for seven Years.

THE *Palatine* not content only to have saved the Lives of these two Friends, would yet assist *Ottawio*, who was now cured of his Wounds, to consummate his Joys with *Paulina*, and procured him to be Married to her: He also provided a Wife for *Leontine*, being a Lady related to himself, intreating these two Friends, that he might make a Third in their inimitable Friendship. The King of *Poland* being acquainted by the *Palatine* with this wonderful Transaction, advanced them both to honourable Employments, which they happily enjoyed to the end of their Lives.

A RARE Example of unparallel'd Generosity and true Friendship, which made *Leontine* expose his Life to a shameful Death to save his Friend, which in the Conclusion was likewise the saving his own, and the Occasion of raising them both to that Dignity and Honour that their Virtue deserved



NOVEL V.

The Constant Couple. Two young Lovers escaping out of their own Country, for fear of their Enemies; after many Misfortunes, came at length into Flanders, where she became an accomplish'd Soldier, and at a Siege were both found Dead in one anothers Arms.

IN the Time of *Alexander Farnese*, Prince of Parma, the Marquis of *Varanbon*, Knight of the Golden

Golden Fleece (one of the principal Noblemen of the Province of *Burgundy*, and who for his Courage and experience, had at that Time considerable Posts in the Army) had Orders to besiege *Bliemberg*, a strong little Town near *Rhineberg*. This brave Captain made his Approaches with great Conduct against the Place, which was well defended; but at length the Breach being practicable, a general Assault was given with so much Courage, that tho' the Besieged repulied their Enemies divers times, yet they were at length obliged to give way, and the Town was taken by Storm; whereby the Defendants suffer'd all the Insolencies and Outrages which Victors commonly practice toward the Vanquished who have been Subdued with Sword in Hand. For the Town having held out so long, the Garrison within declaring, that they would never surrender upon any Conditions, but rather resolved to die in it's Defence, than deliver it up to the *Spaniards*; it was entirely left to be Plunder'd by the Soldiers, and then neither Age nor Sex was spared, but put all to the Sword, and the whole place rendred desolate. The Marquiss having made himself absolute Master thereof, gave Orders for burying the Dead, lest the infection should corrupt the Air, and occasion the Death of his own Men.

Among the Dead, two Soldiers were found on the Breach, so strictly embracing each other, that even in this State, wherein they had no Thought, it was difficult to part them. The Vanquishers, who were eager after Prey and Booty, observing they were very well Clothed, strip'd them stark naked; one of the Bodies, whose Skin was as white as

Snow

Snow, and of excellent Proportion, was found to be a Woman: Amazement hereupon running through all the Troops, every one being inquisitive to know the meaning of this Extraordinary Accident: At length the Marquis had Intelligence of it, who being a Person of Honour and much inclined to Love, was very curious to find out the Mystery of this Armed *Venus*, who was found so closely embraced by her *Mars*, and was passionately desirous to know who these two Lovers were, that he might honour the Memory of so much Courage and Fidelity.

It happen'd, that a Soldier, who had given Proofs of an incomparable Courage, and being wounded in several Places, had yielded himself to the Faith of a *Burgundy* Captain, who being pleased with his Discourse, took care to have him drest, who acquainted him among other Matters, that he was the only Person who could satisfy the Marquis's enquiry, and the desire of so many others, to know the truth of this amorous and warlike Adventure. The wounded Prisoner being not able to stir, the Surgeon having little hopes of his Recovery, the Marquis with several Captains, went to visit him, and to hear from his own Mouth the Particulars of this Event. The sick Man resuming all the Strength and Vigour he had left, made his Relation in *High-Dutch*, which these Visitors understood very well.

My Lord, says he, I render thanks to Heaven that hath given me so much Strength and Life, to yield to this Honourable Company, the glorious Testimony that I owe to my Love, and to my Friendship, which having done, think it not strange that I die; for the Causes that made me Live being now

no more, it seems a Cruelty, and not Charity to dress my Wounds, thereby to prolong my Death, rather than preserve my Life: For I can no more live without Friendship, than enjoy the Light of the Sun without Eyes. Even from my Birth I have had an Inclination to Love, and that so strong, that I cannot remember ever to have been without some particular affection; but never any so intense as to these two Lovers, my Friend and my Mistress, which have been found Dead so strictly join'd upon the Battlements: O! happy Couple, why did the Order of War separate our Affections, so that I was Commanded to fight in another Place? How freely, to save you from Death, would I have suffer'd myself to have been hewn into an hundred Pieces, or at least wise have been your inseperable Compassion in Death, as I have been in Life, but you have outstript me for a short time: stay for me, dear Souls and I shall be soon with you. Alas! the Desire to see you, rather than to preserve my Life, made me to surrender myself to this young Commander, in whom my Courage procur'd Compassion: But since you are no more among the number of the Living, I will continue here no longer than needs must, only to leave behind me a Memorial of our unparallel'd Friendship.

He made this Discourse with so many Sighs and Tears, and so strong a Voice, that he fell suddenly into a Swoon, and was thought to have been just expiring, occasioned, either by the Pains of his Body, or rather the Passion of his Mind. The Marquis, for fear he should die away, retired into another Room, resolving to defer his Account 'till he got more Strength: But when he was a little recovered,

55 *Twelve delightful Novels.*

vered, finding that his noble Audience were with-
drawn he fell into such great Complaints and Sorrow,
that he had not an Opportunity to disburthen his
Mind, that the Marquis being acquainted there-
with, had so much Pity as to return again. The
Soldier then with a grave and serious Countenance
proceeded thus.

MY LORD,

MY Name is *Aleran*, my Birth noble, my
Country the Landgravate of *Hesse*, I was
born at *Melfignam* near *Cassel*, the Seat of my
Prince, in whose Court I was entertained. I en-
tered into so strict a Friendship with a Gentleman
named *Leander*, a Native of *Rothemberg*, who had
been bred a Page to the Landgrave, that we were
usually called, *The Inseparables*: That Impatience
which Lovers feel when absent from their Mistres-
ses, we were sensible of when we are out of Sight
of each other: Being together, Days were to us
as Hours, and Hours as Months when we were
sunder; even Sleep was tedious to us when separ-
ated. We commonly made but one Bed, one Purse,
one Table, the same House, the same Servants,
the same Liveries, the same Retinue; and when
any of our Servants were asked whom they belong-
ed to, they answered, *To the two Friends*, if that
that are but one may be call'd two. We went
sometimes to *Rothemberg*, sometimes to *Melfignam*
to see our Common Parents; he was at our House
as his own, and I at his as mine, we lived in an
amirable Union.

It happened once, as we were at *Melfignam*, that
my Friend saw, in Company of some other young
Women

Women, a very Fair young Lady, named *Aipasia*, whose Graces took such Possession of his Heart, that he was afterwards continually talking and thinking of her. I presently judged him to be infected with Love, which he readily acknowledged to me at my first asking, for he concealed nothing from me. Well, said I, I am very glad you have placed your Affections upon an Object, wherein I am able to give you some Assistance; for the Lady is a Relation of mine, and tho' it be far off, yet this Affinity may give you more easy Access to her, and by frequent Conversation, you may insinuate yourself into her Favour: For you are a person of so much Merit, that to see you, to be acquainted with you, and to Love you, are but the same thing. *Lisander*, with Tears of Joy in his Eyes, replied, dear Friend, thou thinkest every one has as good an Opinion of me as thyself, and that thy Passion for me can affect another: I have not so much Presumption as to think I can instantly command the young Lady's Affections; but it shall suffice if she will permit me to honour her; and that the Torments I endure may be so acceptable, as to be a Testimony of the Sacrifice of my Heart, which I offer unto her.

Thou art already, said I, in those Terms of Idolatry, that are so usual in the Mouths of Lovers, which commonly proceed only from the Lips and Tongue, and have no ill design in them, otherwise they may be counted little less than Blasphemy; for they speak of Altars, Sacrifices, of Adorations, Flames, Victims, Goddesses of Temples, Vows, and other such Vain and ridiculous Discourses, wherewith

wherewith they entertain their crazed-Imaginations. You that are in Health, replies *Leander*, are like those that smile at the Talk of Persons in an high Fever, instead of Pitying them; but if thou hast any Kindness for a wounded Lover, I beg thy help, and to believe, that the greatest Proof thou canst give of our inviolable Friendship, will be to aid me in this Affair, or else my Love and Life must end together: I then assured him of all my good Offices. However, I represented to him the difficulties and Obstacles which I doubted he would meet with before he could accomplish his Desires; but this I found did but only heighten his Ardour, and that the Difficulties did but the more animate him to pursue his Point: I then found means for my Friend to see my fair Kinswoman, who after some Addresses, and declaring his Affection to her, he perceived she had some Inclination to comply with his Passion, and had great Hopes of compassing his Happiness; I was every Day inculcating into *Aspasia's* Ears the commendable Qualities of *Leander*; and my own Affection to him making me Eloquent, it was easy for me to persuade her that I believed all was true which I said of him: For it is requisite that the Orator be affected himself, who endeavours to move the Passions of others.

THE young Lady was at length taken with the irresistible Charms of *Leander's* Conversation. He was now only in *Aspasia's* Favour; but though the Heart was conquered, yet to arrive to the Possession of this fair Body, one of the Ornaments of Nature, there were many hindrances, which appeared invincible. But nothing seems difficult nor impos-

sible to those that are true Lovers.

GRACIANA Stepmother to *Aspasia* had Married *Sinon*, Father to this Maid, on Condition, that a Son she had by her first Husband should marry his Daughter, when she came to be Marriageable. *Sinon*, without any Consideration but that of Money, obliged himself to perform this Promise, not considering, that to force the Will is the Part of a Tyrant, rather than a Father; and then what Obedience could oblige fair *Aspasia* to give herself to a Monster, and to love him who had all the Defects that could procure Detestation and Horror? His Back was higher than his Head, and he was so short and round, that he appeared like a Hogthead or Ferkin; his Complexion of the Colour of a *Mulatto*, or sick *Spaniard*; his Lips big, his Cheeks flat, his Eyes sunk in, his Nose permanent, his Legs like Cat-sticks; so in fine he was a mere Lump of Deformity.

To proceed no farther in this nauseous Description, what could all these Remedies of Love procure, but Aversion and Hatred in the Mind of *Aspasia*, and no doubt made way for her entertaining the amorous Courtship of *Leander*, by comparing so many frightful Antidotes with such Graces and Accomplishments as *Leander* was Master of.

HUGOLIN (that was his Name whom we have Painted out) had one ill Quality more to all the rest, namely Jealousy: Perceiving then the Correspondence of these two Lovers, which he did not doubt but were Injurious to his Pretensions; he acquainted *Sinon* therewith, who to perform his Bargain

Bargain, and to see his Daughter richly Married to this only, but singularly ill-favoured Son, promised him to dismiss this brave Courtier *Leander*; that put Crotchets into his Head, and in short, commanded his Daughter not to see him any more. This Prohibition, was to little Purpose, because *Aspasia* replied, that she could not hinder this Gentleman from coming into that Company where he might happen to be. *Sinon* likewise discouraged *Leander*, advising him to lay aside all Pretensions to *Aspasia*, because she was already engaged to *Hugolin* by a solemn Contract, before he Married his Mother. *Leander* was much displeased with this Declaration, and would have treated both Father and Son-in-Law with the severest Language, if the Love he had for his Daughter, had not restrained his Tongue, as doubting that it might have ruined his Project for obtaining her; so that he resolved at present to deprive his Eyes of the most lovely Object in the World, because he found she was ill used by her Father, and reproached by her Mother-in-Law upon his Account by the Instigation of *Hugolin*; he therefore returned to the City of *Cassida*, where the fine Women that presented themselves to his sight, had not the least Effect upon him, whose Mind was fixed upon the Beauties of his beloved *Aspasia*.

MEAN Time I continued near my fair Kinswoman at *Melfignam*, who knowing the Intimacy and entire Friendship that was between us, discovered the Sentiments of her Soul as freely to me, as she would have done to *Leander* himself, to whom I gave a daily Account of the constant fidelity of her Mind.

Mind, on whom neither Absence nor Opposition had any Influence. But as it is hazardous to touch Fire, and not be burnt, so this intimate Conversation between us, occasioned an Inclination in me to Love and Marry her myself, our Kindred being within that degree. as I might have done it without offending the Laws: Her Perfections and Charms had such influence upon my Heart, that Love and Friendship contended together, and for some Time the Ballance seem'd equal on both sides; yet at the last, after several severe Combats within me, Friendship gained the Victory, Honour prevailing over Sense, and Reason subduing Passion; the perfect Friendship that I had so long before Contracted with *Leander*, represented to me, that if I should deprive him of his admired *Aspasia*, I should be the most treacherous Person in the World; so that discovering these flattering Thoughts, wherewith the excellencies of my Kinswoman had possess'd me, I resolv'd to be faithful to my Friend, and content myself to love her as a Sister, whom I wish'd to see married to my Brother; and indeed I may reckon the greatest Proof of my disinterested Friendship to *Leander*, that triumph'd over all the Inclinations of my Soul for *Aspasia*, with whom I was so Con-
stant, and yet did always represent him to Advantage to his Mistress.

YET did jealous *Hugolin* penetrate into our proceedings, and as it was apparent that *Leander* and I were but one, he had reason to believe that I solicited for my Friend, and under the Vail of Kindred, promoted his Interest in his Absence: He thereupon makes the same Complaint to his Father

of me, as he did against *Leander*, and the Step-Mother frowns when she sees me near her Daughter-in-Law; and if *Hugolin's* Courage had been as great as his Jealousy, he might have done me a Mischief, but what Endeavours soever he used, he could never prevent *Aspasia* from seeing me, nor make the Father forbid me to converse with her. *Sinon*, indeed, in a more Friendly Manner than was natural to him, insisted strenuously upon the Marriage determined betwixt his Daughter and *Hugolin*, and intreated me not to speak to her of *Leander*, lest the Merits of this Knight, one of the gallantest Men of the Court, should make her discover the Imperfections of *Hugolin*, which were too apparent, and I should hereby declare myself to be a Loving Friend and good Kinsman: A good Kinsman replies, I ought to reduce his Friend to Reason, when he deviates from it: Now Seignior *Sinon*, it seems unreasonable to me, that you are contracting a Marriage for your Daughter, by destroying the Foundation thereof, which consists in the Union of her Will; and if you constrain her Will, which is diametrically opposite to Freedom, you will make the Marriage unhappy, knowing then the strong Aversion she hath to this little misshapen Lump of a Man (not to say any thing more severe against *Hugolin*, but what appears to our Eyes) I cannot without the breach of Duty to a good Kinsman but inform you that as an affectionate Father, you ought to endeavour to render the future State of your Daughter less Rich, but more happy and Contented.

I know, says *Sinon*, how far the Power of Parents doth extend, and my Daughter is sensible wh

Obedien

Obedience is due to me: It doth not belong to Maids to make choice of their Husbands, but rely on the Will of those that brought them into the World, and to have no Will of their own; my Word is past, the Matter is resolved on, the State of my Affairs and Family require it; do not then put the Thought of any other into her Mind but *Hugolin*, whose Mother I should never have had, without engaging to make a Match between her Son and my Daughter. Finding *Sinon* settled in this Resolution, and that it would be but lost Labour to endeavour to remove it out of his Mind, I left him with Compliments and fair Words, wherewith he seem'd satisfied.

MEAN while, the Beauty of *Aspasia* procured her new Servants and Admirers, which gave many Alarms to *Hugolin*, who finding they surpassed him in all things but only his Estate, much doubted, that having so many Rivals or Enemies on his Hands before Marriage, he should afterwards have more Friends than he desired; at length to prevent all Attempts and Suspitions, he resolved to make himself absolute Possessor of his fair Prize, and to consummate his Marriage with *Aspasia*, not having attained to the twentieth Year of his Age, and his Figure and Strength, not exceeding that of a Child.

SINON, who proposed to improve his Estate by this Alliance, readily consented hereunto, and the fatal Day for Consummation is appointed, of which informed *Leander*, who came Postling to endeavour to prevent the Blow. He is admitted secretly to his *Aspasia*, and in my Presence they renew their

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Vows of Fidelity; I, for my Part, assured them of my utmost Assistance to compass their Desires, and vowed to Sacrifice my Life in their Service; in the mean Time *Leander* used all ways possible to prevent the Storm that threatned to Shipwreck his Hopes. He demands *Aspasia* in Marriage of her Father, but is positively denied; He Quarrels with *Hugolin*, but this little Dwarf would not fight with a Man, who compared to him seem'd a Giant; he threatens to beat him, whereupon *Hugolin* seeks refuge from the Landgrave of *Hesse*, by whom *Simo* was much esteem'd; and the Father goes to *Casse* to complain of the Threats of *Leander*, who so violently disturbed the Marriage of his Daughter. The Prince sends for *Leander*, and Reprehends him severely, with a strict Charge not to make any further Addresses to *Aspasia* (and withal Commands her to Marry *Hugolin*) and as he would avoid the Indignation of his Sovereign Lord and Master, to renounce all Thoughts of her.

THIS Prohibition from the Mouth of a Sovereign without any Appeal, silenced all the Pleas of *Leander*; it was in vain to Plead the Violence of his Love, the Lady's Affection to him, the Horrord he had for *Hugolin*, who he represents as a Monster fitter to be smother'd between two Feather Beds, a Reproach to Mankind, than to lye in the Arms of a Miracle of Nature. These Words were cast to the Wind, and so Provoked the Landgrave, that he order'd him to be put in Prison, for speaking so discreetly; but by his Friends Intercession, he was pardoned, upon Condition he should be wiser for the future. *Leander* assured the Prince, that

would banish himself from his Presence and Country, rather than willingly displease his Highness; but humbly intreated that he might be dispens'd with from engaging never to Love *Aspasia* any more because he could not so easily cast off his Affection as his Cloths, and that nothing but Time could blot her Idea out of his Memory. The Prince contented himself herewith, attributing all these extravagant Discourses as Follies, which excess of Love possesses the Heads of Lovers withal.

SINON returns to *Melfignam*, in order to perfect the Marriage of his Daughter with *Hugolin*, and three Days after is appointed for this unlucky Wedding: *Aspasia* is resolv'd to die, rather than pronounce, "*I take thee Hugolin, &c.*" which would have tied her in an indissoluble Knot to a Monster; and *Leander* will venture his Life, rather than leave the Delight of his Soul in these sad Circumstances. Upon Consultation they were resolv'd upon a flight, which *Aspasia* was easily perswaded to for preventing this fatal Misfortune. They thought nothing could be done without me: Judge now the Strength of my Friendship, who abandoned all other Considerations, but the serving my Friend, even against the Honour of my Blood: I in an Instant renounced my Country, my Estate, the Favour of my Prince, and all hopes of Happiness, to pursue the blind desires of these Lovers, for both whom I had an Incurable Passion: It was I that convey'd *Aspasia* through a Window in her Father's House, and putting on her a Suit of my Cloths, led her to *Leander*, who staid for us in the Fields: being all well mounted we made such Speed as to get out of the

Landgrave's Territories without being stop'd or seized. But knowing that Princes have long Hands, we much doubted of our safety in *High Germany*, where our Prince had great Interest, we came down into *Holland*, and spent that little Money and Provisions which our sudden Flight permitted us to bring from our own Country, from whence we could not hope for any Supply, for fear of the Landgrave, who was much offended, should know where we were, and prosecute us by his Agent. In these united Provinces, *Aspasia* being disguised in Man's Cloths, we all three took Service under the States Colours, and she had such Delight in all the Exercises of Arms, that she became an *Amazon*, or female Soldier; She soon learned to discharge a Musket, to Fence, to manage a Horse, and had such a Dexterity in all of them, that she was counted the compleatest Gentleman in the whole Troop. She makes herself *Leander's* Comrade, and under the Name of *Roland* (a brave ancient Paladin grew famous in many Encounters. *Leander* and she were inseparable as we always had been, and *Roland* being joined with us, whoever engaged one of us, had us all three on his Hands.

I THINK it is needful to tell you, that *Leander* and *Aspasia* were married in my Presence, I being of Opinion, That it is a Privilege, neither Honour nor permitted to Lovers to proceed to Enjoyment without that Sacred Bond. When I saw them in the Possession of their Desires, I then discovered to them my former Passion, and with what Pain and Violence I had conquered the same, in Consideration of the Consummate Friendship I had with *Aspasia*.

ander. They admired this Victory that I got over myself; and *Leander* vowed he Loved me the better for it, if any thing could be Added to the transcendant Kindness he ever had for me; and *Aspasia* judging the Force of her Charms had such an Effect upon me, which yet I was not able to Resist, beheld me as one of her Admirers, and protested, That next to her Husband and her Honour, there was no Man she had such an Affection for as myself; she admitted me to call her Sister, and I vowed to her the Love of a Brother; and from the generosity of their Humour, She and *Leander* allowed me to stile her my Mistress, and she me her Servant, which was all the Favours I ever received from her, besides Sometimes kissing her no less fair than valiant Hand: She had so much Beauty, attended with such a Majestick Air, that if one inflamed with Love, the other commanded Respect and Fear; and in short the Friendship of the Husband, and the Value I had for the Chaste Wife, had such equal Effect upon me, that though my Life should lie at Stake, I resolved to do nothing to their Prejudice, which removed all the former Impressions that *Aspasia's* Beauty had made upon my Thoughts.

We were informed, That after our flight from our own Country, the Landgrave being extremely incensed, publish'd an Order, That the Law should proceed against us as Ravishers, and we were condemned to lose our Heads, which was executed upon us in *Effigie*, our Goods were Confiscated, and we were prosecuted with the utmost Rigour; so that having lost all our Interest on that side, we depended only upon our own Valour and the Success

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of our Arms. *Leander* and I had upon all Occasions shewed ourselves daring and intrepid, and the brave *Roland* made it appear in all Places that Love which gave her Courage, assisted her with Strength beyond the Valour of her own Sex, or of the most daring Soldier.

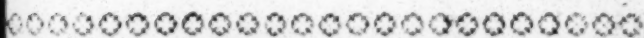
AFTER many Encounters with the *Spaniards*, we shut ourselves up in *Bliemberg*, resolving to defend the same to the last Extremity, where there happened what you have now seen: I by my Commander's Order being seperated from my two Friends, they were slain in the Breach that was made in the Walls of the Town, and we may suppose that *Leander* being first killed, *Aspasia* not willing to survive him, hath been slain on his Body, and expired embracing him. As for me, I had fallen in the forefront of the Combat, if this brave, but too pitiful Captain would have suffered me to die; but caused me to be brought into this Place where I am, the loss of Blood having laid me among the Dead. And now having satisfied both your Curiosity and my own Desire, I will Live no longer, since I am bereaved of the light of my Eyes, those twin Stars, my Friend and my Mistress.

ALERAN thus ending his Discourse, had like to have ended his Life, so extremely did Grief oppress his Spirit: but the Marquis admiring his great Courage, ordered the Doctor and Surgeon to endeavour his Cure with their best Skill and Application; but whether from the Depth of his Sorrow, or pain of his Wounds, poor *Aleran* died two Days after; and was by the Command of the Marquis interred with Honour by *Leander* and his Wife,

under

der a Tomb-stone, with this Inscription, *The three Lovers, Inseparable in Life and Death.*

MANY Remarkable Morals may be drawn from this History: First, That Parents are to blame in destinating Children in Marriage to Persons which they abhor. Again, That Despair carries Amorous Souls into unknown Dangers and Misfortunes; and that Love raiseth Courage, even of the weakest Sex, and makes them Valiant to Admiration. In *Alexander* appears the Image of a faithful Friend, and an unparallel'd Lover, his Friendship triumphing over his Love: And the Generosity of the Marquis de *Baranbon* in honouring the Memory of those whom he Vanquished, ought never to be forgotten by Posterity.



NOVEL VI.

The Loves of EDGAR King of ENGLAND. Who sending his Favourite to give him an Account of the famed Beauty of Elfreda, Daughter to the Duke of Devonshire; he fell in Love with her, and giving her an indifferent Character, he Married her himself with the King's Consent; but the Rumour of her Superlative Handsomness increasing, the King made her a Visit, and discovering his Favourite's Treachery, kill'd him in Hunting, and made her his Queen.

EDGAR King of England, had a Favourite, named Earl *Eibetwold*, who had gained so far upon

upon the Affections of his Majesty, that he governed the Passions as well as the Subjects of the King, as absolutely as himself, who acted nothing but by his Counsels, saw nothing but by his Eyes, and as if he had been to Love nothing but with his Heart; he intrusted him to go and view a young Lady called *Elfreda*, Daughter and Heir to *Orgdarus*, Duke of *Devonshire*, and Founder of *Tarvislack* Abbey, one of the greatest Lords of his Kingdom: *Ethelwold*, who could well Judge of Beauty, had a Commission, That if he found her as she was represented, to bring her with him, resolving to make her his Queen; tho' besides her Beauty, her Fortune was so large, that it was no Policy in the King to commit the Choice of her to *Ethelwold*. The Duke of *Devonshire* had been the Cause of great Troubles during the Reign of the precedent King; for which he was confined to his Territory, and that was the Reason the fair *Elfreda* had never appeared in the Court of *England*: In this manner was this Favourite qualified with a Commission to furnish the King with a Wife, and the Throne of *England* with a Queen. This Conjunction seem'd very consonant with his Designs; he flattered the King in his Desire of Marrying *Elfreda*, and departed with an absolute Power to conclude or break off the Marriage as he Judged convenient.

ETHELWOLD being arrived in *Devonshire*, and the private Article in his Commission being the Examination of her Beauty, he resolved to see her before he made any Proposals. He pretended to have taken that Journey to set the Duke right once more with the Crown of *England*; and this good

Office deserved all the Civility could be shewed him, the Daughter was called to bear a part in the Acknowledgments. Never did old Story speak of any Lady with so much advantage as the *English* Chronicle does of *Elfreda*, the Description made of her, relishes more of the Romance than true History; and yet the Effects her Beauty produced were so strange and so great, they seem to justify the *Encomium* given of her. The Earl was dazzled at the very first glance, and this surprize was presently converted into a violent Passion, and that into a Resolution never to put her into the Arms of his Master. He proceeded instantly to a treaty, but it was for himself, thereby teaching Posterity, That in matters of Love they should never give their Agents so absolute a Power as may tempt them to abuse it.

THERE being no Person in the Court of *England* so great as *Ethelwold*, the Duke of *Devonshire* took the Proposition as a very great Honour and granted it without any demur; so all things being concluded, and nothing wanting to consummate the business but the Nuptial Benediction; *Ethelwold* informed the Duke, that in Duty he was obliged to acquaint his Majesty therewith; under which pretence he took his leave of the Duke, and returned presently to Court; where he gave *Edgar* a character of *Elfreda* quite contrary to what he had conceived already; true it is, Sir, said the Earl to the King, *Elfreda* has all things about her requisite to make a Lady Handsome, and yet with all those accomplishments she is far from it her self: She has an ill Mein, which discredits her Shape, she has

has a red lip, but without any Sweetness, her Eyes are Large Grey, and Well-set; but she has a way of opening them altogether unbecoming; her Looks are so Childish and Silly, they abate much the excellency of her complexion; In short, Sir, the Features and Proportions of this Lady are not agreeable, but so huddled together, that their Confusion spoils their Harmony, and never any Lady but the Duke of *Devonshire's* Daughter had so much disagreeableness, and so much Beauty in one Person.

To this extravagant Description, *Ethelwold* added certain pretended Reasons of State: As that since the Duke of *Devonshire* had been banish'd the Court, he had contracted great Debts and Mortgaged a considerable Part of his Estate to the Duke and Earls his Neighbours: That he was odious to the *English* Nation; and that his Journey into *Devonshire* having given some Alarm and Suspicion the People began already to declare against the Match; with such Discourses as these he wrought upon the King, that considering the inconvenience of Proceeding, he gave over his Design. But this single Effect of the Earls Counsels could not content him, he knew *Edgar* was of an Amorous Complexion, and he must find out some thing to entertain him. *Ethelwold*, after diligent Enquiry found out a fit Object for the King's Love, *England* is not barren of Beauties, and it was a Mistress for his Majesty he wanted. He met with a young Lady called *Wilfride*, who had withdrawn herself into a Monastery, to avoid the insolence of her Guardian; she was young, unfortunate, and next the Dukes Daughter, the handsomest Wo-

man in the Kingdom: The Earl presented her to the King, to obtain his Protection against her Guardian, who would Marry her to a Person she could not possibly Love. He gave him such a Representation of her excellent Qualities, that she received sensible Marks of the King's Inclination: *Ethelwald* bragged himself at his good Success; he used *Wilfride* with all Kindness and Compassion, and promised to secure her from the Violence of her Adversary; so that at length he prevailed upon her to comply with the King's Desires, and resign herself wholly to his Pleasure.

FINDING *Edgar* engaged with this Lady, the Earl took occasion to renew his Designs against the Duke of *Devonshire*, pretending he had Advice, that the Duke kept intelligence with the Duke of *Normandy*, and pressing his Majesty to put a stop to the Ambition of this Nobleman, by marrying his Daughter to one of his Subjects, and seemed to intimate, that it would advance his own Fortune, if his Majesty should be graciously pleased to consent he himself might make her his Wife: Not that he had so great Kindness for *Elfreda*, she being very unacceptable to him; but that his Loyalty and Tranquillity of the Nation were the principal Motives which prevailed upon him to desire her for his Wife. The King, who would deny nothing to so dear a Favourite readily consented to bestow her upon him; and he for the Advantage of the Kingdom is sent into *Devonshire* to marry the Duke's Daughter. Never was any Man as Happy as this Lover; he esteemed her a Thousand Times more Handsome now she was his Wife than before, and though it was Obedience only to

her Father which obliged *Elfreda* to marry him, having never loved any thing but him; yet the bare act of Marriage wrought as effectually upon the Heart of the young Lady, as if she had been long Courted. The Presence of her Husband was quickly dear to her, she was concerned at his Absence, and understanding that he designed to return to Court, *Alfred*, said she to him one Day, This is that I have always been afraid of; the Love of a Servant and Husband are exceeding different. I remember a Roguish Song my Governess taught me when I was a Child, which I fear Contains a fatal Prediction of my Destiny; having said thus, with an Innocent Smile that almost ravished her Husband, she began to repeat them as follows

*Whilst Love's suspended, and in fear
Of a Repulse, nothing's too dear,
Or good to hang at Ladies Ear.*

*But if the Damsel once complies,
And pities Rheum in Servants Eyes,
Farewel all future Sacrifice.*

*Six Days Possession at the most,
Makes a Man Curse his former Cost,
And reckons Time and Presents lost.*

No, no, dear *Elfreda*, reply'd the Amorous *Herwald*, embracing her in his Arms, nothing shall ever extinguish the Passion I have for you. I am much enamoured, and you too Handsome not to be always the Mistress of your Husband. Why then will you leave me, My Lord, replied the melancholy *Elfreda*, could you part with me so soon if you loved me so much as you pretend? Nay, my dear, replied the Earl, my Journey is of Necessity, I must

needs go where my Duty requires me: Would you have me renounce the Favour of my Prince, the Advantages I have thereby, and the Care of the State which his most Gracious Majesty has committed almost entirely to my Conduct? What Necessity is there, replied *Elfreda* of these Advantages; is not the Duke my Father, Rich and great enough to advance your Fortunes? And can you think that when I cannot enjoy you, the thought of your Travelling for the Good of the Nation will give me any Ease, Ah, my Lord, let us promote our own private Felicity, and leave the Care of the Publick to others, the Satisfaction and Pleasures the whole World can give; cannot wipe away one of the Tears your Absence will bring upon my Cheeks; and in short, to tell you my final Resolution, either you must be kind and stay here with me, or be so obliging as to let me bear you Company, otherwise there may be Danger we shall never meet any more. These Propositions were equally fatal to the Earl; he used all his Art to reduce her to Reason; he loved *Elfreda* very well, and his own Advancement no less: He was conscious of the Cheat he had put upon the King, and he had no Mind his Wife should come to Court, to detect him; he endeavoured to excuse himself by the unreasonableness of the Weather, and promised to return in a short Time; but the new Bride would not be Paid in that Coin, she charged him with Inconstancy and Contempt, and forced him at last to confess the whole Truth.

WHAT Confidence is to be placed by a Husband in a young Lady, whose Heart has been acquainted with Love but a few Days in a Conjugal Way? *E*

Ethelwald expected this Declaration should have stopp'd her Desires of accompanying him to *London*, and have satisfied her that he really loved her; but alas he was not acquainted with the Humour of most of the Female Sex: Ambition is natural to them, and the Honour of being a Queen will overcome all other Considerations. The Countess easily Comprehended by his Discourse, that he spoke High-Treason against her Beauty, and not only deprived her of a Crown, but prevented her from all Opportunity of going to Court while *Edear* was living. This Possess'd her with such an Abhorrence of her Husband's Disingenuity, that she began to hate him more than she had loved him before; and in truth after this Discovery he had no Reason to fear her following him against his Will, who never utter'd a Word to persuade him to stay. She look'd sadly on the Walls of her Father's Court, reckoning them to be her Perpetual Prison, and the only part of the World she was like to see. She was often discouraging her Father, or the new Attendants her Husband had left with her, about the Beauty of the City of *London*, and Magnificence of the Court; and revolving in her Mind that she was banish'd for all her Life-time, at least during her Youth, from the Place where she might have Reigned as Sovereign: had not the Treachery of *Ethelwald* prevented it, she gave herself over to Melancholy, so that nothing could Comfort her. The Duke imagining this sickness proceeded from the Absence of her Husband, assured her continually of his sudden Return, and shew'd her the Letters he had received to that purpose and used all Means possible to divert her, but

was not the sight of her Consort she longed for; she feared his Presence now, as much as she desired it before.

WHILST her Thoughts were in this Agitation, a Painter arrived in that Town, who went from one Court to another, to make a Collection of the Pictures of all the fine Ladies in Europe, to furnish his Master the Duke of Modena. This Picture Drawer had heard much Discourte of the Beauty of *Elfreda*, from a French Man, one of his Acquaintance at Rome, who had been sometime in England: Upon his Report, he concluded he could carry nothing more grateful to his Master, than the Picture of this Lady: He came therefore to the Duke's Palace, and with all due Formality, begged leave of the Nobleman that his Daughter might sit, which he obtained without Scruple. The Duke loved his Daughter very tenderly, and knowing nothing of the intrigue of his Son-in-Law, he thought the giving her Picture but a Thing indifferent. But the Countess had other Thoughts, she contributed to the utmost to make herself more Amiable, and perceiving she had hid her Design, and that her Picture was very well done, she told the Painter, if he would acquit himself well of his Commission he must go to the Court of King *Edgar*, where the greatest Beauties were.

THE *English* Women in all Ages, have been allowed the handsomest in the World; and tho' the *Italian* had got the Choice of all, in the Picture of the young Countess; yet he resolved to have *Wilde's* too, for the Reputation she had of being the King's Mistress: He then repaired to *London*, and

Elfreda having told him that *Edgar* was very curious in Pictures; she hoped by this Means he might come to have a sight of hers, and he convinced of the Error the Earl had drawn him into, without her Assistance, nor was she mistaken in her Measures. The King was desirous to see his Pictures when he heard of his Arrival; and tho' the Duke of *Madenah* had ordered him to shew them to very few Persons, the Liberality of the King soon removed that Difficulty, the *Italian* assured him he should see the best he had, and the King chose *Wilfrides* Chamber to view them in, that she might Partake of the Divertissement. The Painter beseeched him to bring but a few with him, and in Compliance therewith, he only brought *Ethelwold* and *Wilfride*; the first Picture the Painter produced was *Eleanor*, the Daughter of the Earl of *Guyenne*, married afterwards to the King of *France*; she it was that charmed the *Saladine* General of the *Sarazens*, said *Ethelwold*, who told him that unless he could speak her Language she could not understand his Courtship, which forced this Great Captain to betake himself to his Book and to study the *French* Tongue, which his Love to her prompted him to attain, in some sociable Measure, in fourteen Days; after her came the Picture of *Elvira*, Mistress to *Ramine*, the Conqueror of *Aragon*, who loved her with so much Passion, that in the Wars which he had, he used to leave his Lady in some weak Fortress, that his Desire to keep her out of the Enemies Hands might oblige him to perform extraordinary Actions in the Battle, *Albion* was the next the Painter offered, who was the Lord? said *Wilfride* to *Ethelwold*, Madam replied

he, she was Queen of the *Lombards*, and Wife to the Great, the *Amazonian* Habit in which she is drawn, Corresponds exceeding with the Actions of her Life, who defended a Town in *Lombardy*, in the absence of her Husband, and did him as much Service as the best of his Generals. These Actions of Valour, reply'd *Edgar* are rare in Persons of that Sex, and I cannot but commend the Judgment of the Painter in the Election of his Picture.

In this manner the King of *England* and his Favourite were discoursing of the *Italian's* Pictures, and the Earl perceiving his Majesty much delighted with his Stories, gave a pleasant Character of every one of them: when on a sudden the Painter chang'd the Scene of their Mirth, by producing the Picture of *Elfreda*, which struck the poor Lord like a clap of Thunder. The Countess had given him no notice that her Picture was drawn, and he was utterly unprepared against so unexpected an Accident. He looked Pale, and trembled, and the King perceived his Distraction, which he attributed to his being surpris'd at the sight of so consummate a Beauty, as he himself was likewise. It is impossible says he to the Painter, that this Picture should be after the Life? Yes, Sir, said the Earl, interrupting the Painter, It is the Picture of my Wife, but so flattered and improved, that if the other Ladies have such Advantages, I dare assure your Majesty there is no one Original has any Likeness to the Copy: The Painter knew well enough he could justify the Fidelity of his Art, *Elfreda* was much handsomer than her Picture, but observing the Count her Husband disparaging her Beauty with more than or-

inary Vehemence, he supposed there was some reason for it, and being unwilling to contradict a Person of his Dignity, reply'd coldly, I have not seen. My Lord, all the Persons whose Pictures I have with me; some of them are Copies. as *Adelard* and *Elvira*, who are both of them Dead; others were taken by some of my Companions who assisted me that we might quickly return Home to satisfy the Impatience of the Duke of *Modena* my Master; but what I have done myself, I dare assure his Majesty, I have Added nothing to the Life.

THE Earl was in hopes this prudent and judicious Answer might have satisfied *Edgar*, but on the contrary, he was so surprized with the Contemplation of *Elfreda's* Picture, that he regarded nothing else. What says he, in the utmost Transport, Is it possible but that the Features of this Face must make the Handsomest Woman in the World: Tell me ingeniously *Ethelwold*, has your Wife these Eyes, this Mouth, this Nose, and this excellent Mould of her Face? Yes Sir, replied *Ethelwold*, who was much disturbed with these kind of Questions, she has all of them, and your Majesty may remember, that in the Character I gave of her, I told you, never homely Woman was so well provided to be Handsome, and that all the Features of her Face were to be admired, but they are not so well proportioned in her Face as in this Picture, The Majestick and Vigorous Air you behold, is but the Fancy and strong Imagination of the Painter, and not at all visible in the Life. I will see this Prodigy, replied the King with some Eagerness, for if *Elfreda* has all the Graces his Pencil has represented, and be ill-favour

ed notwithstanding, she is in my Judgment, the greatest Miracle in the World.

THIS Proposition of *Edgar's* made both *Ethelwald* and *Wilfride* Tremble; and though the Earl did his utmost to constrain himself, and answered the King as if his Wife would be much Honoured by such a Visit, yet he used his Endeavours to divert his Resolution; he admonish'd *Wilfride* to contribute her Assistance: he counterfeited Letters that *Devon* was visited with the Plague, and opened them in the Presence of the King: He bribed all the Court Physicians to dissuade him from his Journey, but all was ineffectual. The Picture of *Elfreda* had inspired such a Curiosity in the Breast of the King, that no difficulty or Danger could deter him. He appointed a Hunting Match at a Palace he had a Days journey from *Devon*, and resolved to see the Countess the next Day: All the Earl could do, was to obtain the Liberty to go two or three Hours before, and give the Duke his Father-in-Law Notice of the King's Coming. No doubt but Love and Ambition employed his Thoughts upon the Road, and were equally divided: When he considered his Crime he had committed against his Majesty, in betraying his Confidence and the inevitable Danger he was in of being discovered; he was thinking he could do no less than to deliver up his Wife with his own Hands to the King, and to try how far that would work for his Pardon; on the other Hand, when he considered she was endued with all the Beauties capable to adorn Woman, he resolved to die a thousand Deaths, rather than to see her in the Possession of another: But when he came Home, the sight of her

confirmed him the more in his Resolution: He used all the Rhetorick he was Master of to persuade her to Counterfeit herself Ill, and not to appear to the King; but, alas! to whom did he address himself, *Elfreda* would have purchased what he prohibited with the loss of her Life; she replied, if she should conceal herself from him, it would but Augment his Curiosity to see her, that he being King and she his Subject, if he was resolved to have a sight of her, there was no way to prevent it, and therefore it would be better for her to appear cheerfully in his Presence. These Arguments made poor *Ethelwold* almost desperate, but since she spoke nothing but Reason, and that if *Edgar* saw her not one Day he would another: since she herself consented, he cried, well then, see if you please, said he, the most curious Monarch in the World, he is our Master, and I find you are pleased with his Desire; but let me enjoin thee one thing, my dear *Elfreda*, not to make the most of your Beauty, nor exhibit to his Eyes all your Charms; let me beg of you, at least not to be nicely drest, but in a negligent Habit, to speak little, and what you do, as far as you can from the Purpose. *Elfreda* made such use of this Doctrine as a witty Woman would do; she knew, by his instructions how to displease the King, and what course she should take to please and give him Satisfaction, whatever he enjoined her she practised the clear contrary, and was never so curiously drest nor so handsome.

THE King at the first sight of her, went away strangely enamoured, and loved her already with his very Soul, her Wit, her Air, and every thing charming.

ed him, so that being sensible of the Earl's Infidelity, he would certainly have sent him to Prison, had not the Apprehension of displeasing his Wife restrained him. After this Visit *Edgar* found her too Handsome to be confined, and languish in the Solitudes of the Country: He confer'd great Offices and Preferments on the Duke, who coming to Court, brought his fair Daughter along with him, at which the *Ethelwold* was deeply concerned; yet she had so great a Protector, that he had no hope of being revenged, he thought his best Play was Patience, and took his Misfortunes so much at Heart, that it would have been a Charity to have knock'd him on the Head. In short Time he died of Melancholly, and the Love of *Edgar* being no longer restrained by the presence of *Ethelwold*, it soon increased to such a height, that no less than the Throne of *England* was able to circumscribe it, and indeed it was not long before she arrived to that Dignity her Ambition aimed at, and was Crowned Queen of *England*.

THOUGH my Author gives the preceding Account of the Death of *Ethelwold*, yet our *English* Chronicle relates it otherwise: Namely, That the King being resolved to punish his Treacherous Favourite, assembled his Resentment for some Time, and having appointed a great Hunting Match, in the Chase he took him at Advantage, and ran him through, who instantly expired on the spot.

NOVEL VII.

The Deluded Coxcombs. Two Captains of the Gallies, being deeply in Love with two young Ladies, were persuaded by one of the Slaves, that he could by Witchcraft procure them the Enjoyment of them, and obliging them to stir in a cold Winter Night, and suffer him to tie them to a Tree, run away with their Cloths and Money, and gained his Liberty. A pleasant Intrigue.

A NOTORIOUS Villain and Cheat, being for his many Crimes condemned to row in the Gallies at *Marseilles* in France, gives the following Account of his Escape from thence, which you shall have in his own Words.

I was born in a Town in *Dauphine*, my Name is *Peter*, my Parents were of good Reputation, and though mean, yet Honourable and Virtuous; being left an Orphan, and having no Friend in the World to assist me, fell at length into ill Company and committed several Thefts, for which I was sentenced to be a Galley Slave all my Life. This dreadful Confinement made me apply all my Thoughts to find out the means for procuring my Liberty, I tried many which came to no Effect; at length I happened upon one which restored me my Freedom on this Wise. The Captain of the Galley where I was a Slave, was exceedingly in Love with a Lady of great Quality, and she having an Aversion to him, all the Arts and Stratagems he could devise, could not bring her to a Compliance

which

which increased his Passion for her so, that he could enjoy no Rest. I having got Knowledge hereof by the Report of my Fellow Slave, who went daily to carry Water, Wood, and other necessaries to my Master's House, resolved to try my Fortune, and not lose the present Occasion. I therefore treated him kindly, promising that if he would faithfully assist me, he might be assured of obtaining his Liberty, which I would procure both for him and myself. Honest *Anthony*, for so was he called, was so elevated with the Sound of Liberty, that he thought it long till I did employ him, and declare what he should do for me, who finding him so tractable, and a little Foolish, My Friend *Anthony*, said I, it is some time since that I intended to impart a Secret to you, not having that Confidence till now, that you were a Person I could trust with a Matter of such Importance, which requires Privacy and Fidelity; you know very well that our Master is extremely smitten with a Lady that dwells near the great Church, and how much she disdains him, not having allowed him the least Favour, notwithstanding the Cost and Pains he has been at to procure the same. Now if I can find out a way to make him enjoy his Pleasure without Charge, or waiting at her Door, what Reward do you suppose he would bestow upon me for effecting the same? Certainly, said *Anthony*, he would not only give thee thy Liberty, but likewise the Freedom of all those whom thou shalt demand: Well, Friend, said I, if thou hast any particular Acquaintance with any one that is most Familiar with him, inform him

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of this Affair, and assure him that I will certainly perform whatever I promise.

ANTHONY was so well pleased with this Proposal, that without answering a Word, or bidding me Farewel, he flew like Lightning to a Soldier in the Galley, desiring him to bring him to the Captains House, to impart to him a matter of great Consequence; he was soon admitted, and the Governor of the House came to the Master of the Galley, charging him to send me with a Soldier to the Captain. I was much pleased with *Anthony's* great Diligence which had so quick an Effect, and made me hope for Success in my Undertaking. I was brought to the Captain's House, Ragged, Naked, with a great Chain at my Foot; however, he came to meet me with a smiling Countenance, as if I had been a person of Honour, and laying his Hand upon my Shaven Crown, ask'd me what Countryman I was, what was my Name, and why I was Condemned to the Gallies: I having answered him the best I could, with Lyes, Excuses, and Dissimulation, he drew me aside to the Corner of the Room, asking, if that which *Anthony* had promised was certain. Sir, said I, I know not what he hath said, nor what promise he hath made; yet if he hath told you any thing of what I charged him with, I can assure you every tittle is true; Sir, I told him, That if you would release me out of the Misery I endure, and set me wholly at Liberty, I could procure the Enjoyment of the Lady, for whom you have such a tormenting Passion, which if I do not accomplish, you shall willingly cut off my Head, or throw me into the Sea.

THOU engagest thyself deeply, said the Captain, already desirous to see the effect of my Promise; but if thou art a Man of so much Skill and Knowledge, as to do this for me, this Galley wherein thou art shall be part of thy Recompence, for I will not only give thee thy Freedom, but will make thee one of the Principal Servants in my Family: But prithee tell me how thou camest by this Art, and after what manner thou wilt perform it; Sir, said I, you shall know that I was educated under a great Astrologer, who upon pretence of casting Horoscopes and Nativities, secretly practised the Science of Magick, without being suspected by any one; he employ'd me in some of his Magical Experiments, supposing that I being Young, and dull of Apprehension, could never understand any of his Criminal Practises; but herein he was deceived, for tho' I seem'd Foolish and Ignorant, yet I had an Eye on all his Performances, and retained them in my Memory, particularly those that concerned Love Matters, among which I have one certain and approved Secret, that if a Woman were as cold as Ice, and hard as an Adamant, I will render her as Complaisant and soft as Wax. But this *Arcaum* that I propounded to you being Magical, it is requisite that I have some Hairs of the Party beloved to put it in Execution, with which and some other Ceremonies that must be performed; the Ladies heart will be so inflamed, that she will take no rest but when she is in company, or thinketh of the Man she Loves. This Operation must be done in the Night at the increase of the Moon, and in the open fields, and there must only be Three in Company,

and

and these stout and resolute Persons, that will not be dismay'd or affrighted at whatever they may hear or see.

IF to further Business, says the Captain, there needs only a courageous Heart, we shall easily compass our Desire; for though all the Powers of darkness should appear, I will never Retreat a Step, nor change my Countenance for Fear. As to the Hairs thou hast mentioned, I will furnish thee with what thou shalt require. I know, Sir, said I, by your Face, that your natural Inclination would soon induce you to the Study of Magick, which if you learnt you might effect Wonders by it. And the Time now favouring us, let us not suffer this season of the Moon to pass without accomplishing our Business. You may go out on Horseback with him that shall accompany you: As for me, tho I am very uneasy with the weight of this Chain, yet I design to go on Foot. All things shall be in readiness said the Captain, against *Thursday* Night, and since Experience and Ingenuity hath made thee Master of this occult Science, be sure to neglect nothing by carelessness, that may contribute to the perfecting our Project, and for the present return to the Galley; for I will send to thee by the Governor of my House who shall be the third of our Company, a faithful Valiant Man: In the mean Time, if any thing be wanting, provide the same, and I will pay for it. After this Discourse I parted from my Master more joyful then ever I was in my Life, and being come to the Galley, I found my good *Anthony*, who impatiently waited my Return, to know how my Business thrived, and what Bargain I had made with the

Captain.

Captain; I gave him an Account of all, with fresh Assurances, that when I was in Favour, the next thing I ask'd should be his Liberty.

In the Interim, I perceived the Governor entering the Galley, with an inflamed Countenance running rather than walking, and inquiring for me; having perceived me he drew me aside, saying, I am the Governor of the Captain's House, who hath sent me hither to know whether all things are provided that may be necessary for effecting the Business that you talked of, for I have Money enough to purchase whatever thou requirest; and that I may offer thee something on my own behalf, accept of this Crown of Gold which I give thee, as a Token of that Friendship which shall be between us, and be assured I shall be very Kind to thee upon the Captain's Account. However, it is but reasonable that thou shouldst make some Return by doing something for me; I replied, very humbly, Sir, I am very much oblig'd to you for condescending so far as to have any Regard to me, who am so much your Inferior, and will with all my Soul perform any thing for you that lies in my Power: I am not willing said the Governor, that thou shouldst venture thy Soul, but being in the same Premunire with the Captain, I would intreat thee that by the secret Power of thy Art, thou wouldst procure me the Favour of a young Lady of Quality, whom I have courted these five Years; but because my Circumstances as to Estate, do not equal hers, I cannot in the least prevail on her to grant me her Love: Now if thou canst kill two Birds with one Stone, I shall be for ever thy benefactor. Thou say'st, the Time is very proper for

for accomplishing the Captain's affair, because the Moon is upon the Increase; what need then of any more Ceremonies about my Mistress than his, and I have brought a Lock of her Hair, which for Year past I have carried about me as a sacred Relic. He gave me the Hair in a Paper, and I was extremely pleased that the third Man in our Company should be likewise so besotted, which promised a prosperous Event of the Cheat; yet I appeared outwardly somewhat concerned, which he took notice of, and ask'd what it was that troubled me: Nothing, I said I, but that I fear if the Captain should know I do any thing for you, he might be offended, and may lose this Opportunity of gaining my Liberty: this Consideration disturbs me: Who will tell him of it, saith he: The Enemy of Mankind, said I, who never Sleeps; however, I am resolved to serve you to the utmost, and venture the Captain's Displeasure, since you have been so generous to me.

Now for the more effectual Performance of this Matter, it is necessary that you buy a large Sack, greater and smaller Hempen Chord, four Ells long, and a new Knife, for which you must pay whatever the Seller demands without Abatement; and then assure yourself that within Seven Days you shall have full Possession of your Beloved. This Answer, I say, he is more pleasing to me than if the King had bestowed a Pension of a Thousand a Year upon me, and thou shalt be nobly Re-compens'd; and then embracing me kindly, went away full of Hope and Expectation, leaving me the most satisfied Man in the World, since nothing more fortunate could have befallen me, and I hugged myself at

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Invention, in having so blinded and besotted the Captain and Governor; yet sometimes my Motion began to flag, by considering the dismal consequence of my miscarrying: However, I made use of Necessity, and with Boldness and Countenanced for *Thursday*, which my Cullies thought long a coming as well as I, they for the Hope of seeing their Ladies, and I in expectation of regaining my Precious Freedom: Every Time the Clock struck, they doubted whether they counted the hours right or not, and in this Extasy discoursed of the Amorous Diversion they should have with their Mistresses. This earnest Expectation and extreme Desire of my perfecting their Design, prevented them from being sensible of the Fraud I intended to put upon them; so that those who Paint with Lust blind, have Reason enough for it; otherwise they would have perceived that I sold nothing but Smoak, and my Promises were but Wind.

At length the Night came which was enlightned with infinite Numbers of Stars, and filled my Soul with Joy, when my honest Governor enters the Gallery, gallantly clothed with his best Apparel, went to my Directions, as being a thing requisite in these Magical Operations, and having satisfied and embraced me, Friend says he, thou shalt I can obtain any thing of the Captain, to shew thee my good Will, I have got leave that thou shouldest be freed from thy Chain for this Night, and it may be for ever, that thou may'st pursue thy Business with greater Ease, though I find it difficult to procure this Favour from him;
I began

I began to suspect that this Kindness being offered without being desired was only to try me; I therefore replied, Sir, I thank you for your Kindness in taking off my Chain, but I must remain in the same State, and that when I make this Trial it must be in the same Cloaths I usually wear, and with the Chain on my Leg, otherwise the Work will be ineffectual.

FROM this Answer the Governor grew more confident of my Honesty and Integrity, and embracing me the second time, Heaven said he, hath certainly sent thee to this Galley, that thou may'st free my Master from the Perplexity he has been in for this Lady, and Likewise to procure to thyself Liberty and Riches according to thy Heart's desire, if the Business fall out well. How well? answered I, hath the Captain any Suspicion that I should deceive him? No, not in the least, said he, since thou didst design to deceive him, it is not in his Power to do it; but the great Desire we have to soften the Hearts of these Tygresses, that they may love us, makes us think it impossible almost for thee to effect this mighty Alteration upon their Minds: for thou knowest Lovers are desperately afraid of miscarrying in these Transactions: Fear nothing, said I, and take no Care, for I will make so strong an Enchantment, that your Mistresses, though frozen like the *Alps*, shall be inflamed with Desire. I question not your Art, said the Governor, but pray tell me, why thou being so cunning a Fellow, didst not enchant the Judge to be in Love with thee or to have let thee go free, and not condemned thee to the Gallies: Ah, Sir, said I,

Secret could have prevailed upon a Man, I had before been a Duke or Governor of some Province, if not a Prince; but he that first found it gave it virtue only to have Influence upon those different Sexes, and to procure Love from a Man to a Woman, or a Woman to a Man: I am fully satisfied, said the Governor, with this Reason, and on the Success as certain by the Hopes that givest me, as if I had already Possession of my own Wishes.

WITH these Words we came to the other side of Harbour, where my kind Captain waited for me with the utmost Impatience: He received me with much Kindness, and asked the Governor why my Chain was not taken off as he had charged him. I answered him with what I had before said to the Governor, wherewith he was still more pleased. We both leaped on Horseback, and I followed at leisure, because of the weight of my Chain, at length we arrived at the place appointed, about a Mile from *Marseilles*: They then alighted and tyed their Horses to a Tree. I began some necessary Ceremonies, and drew a Circle on the Ground, and made them pronounce such strange and unintelligible Words, which I dictated to them, as neither I myself, nor they understood, turning about sometimes to the *East*, and other times to the *West*. I made them both tremble and astonished. After I had sometime turned my back about like a Fool, I ordered the Captain to stand within the Circle, and next to strip himself, obliging him to say certain Words at every part of his Cloths that he pulled off, which he repeated

so exactly after me, that he believed the missing of one Syllable would confound the Business; being without any Fear or Suspicion, since the Governor was so near him, who was very impatient 'till I had done with the Captain, as doubting there would not be Time enough, nor Enchantment sufficient for himself. Pity moved me because of his Innocence, that my Heart would not serve me to take off his Shirt, because of the cold Season, which made the Teeth chatter in his Head; I comforted and encouraged him, saying, that the Enchantment will soon be over and he should then have full Possession of his Lady, enjoining him not to speak one Word which if he did, we should all three be instantly hoisted into the Air by an Evil Spirit, and carried among the *Turks* into *Barbary*. I then gave him a Knife, ordering him to make Stabs or Motions towards the four Quarters of the World, uttering some words every Time, and for a Conclusion I made him go into a Sack: I then stood in Admiration of what I saw, for I was always afraid that his going into the Sack would make him sensible of the Delusion that I would put upon him; but he was as mild and obedient as a Lamb, and without the least Resistance or Distrust went into it, the Presence of the Governor giving him Assurance, who he thought was Ignorant of his Love, else he would never have done it.

HAVING pack'd or sack'd up the Captain, I laid him upon his Back on the Ground, tying the mouth of the Sack with the Chord; still encouraging the Governor and wishing him to have Patience but a Quarter of an Hour, and the Enchantment would

be over; and in a short space, he in-
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er; and taking him at some Distance from the
he in a great Rage cried out, Well, I'll lay
ger that thou hast forgot something in order
A my Business, for I see here neither Knife
Sack provided for me, as was for the Captain.
and I, here is no need of a Sack, because your
cal Experiments are made stronger or weaker
ling to the Constitution of the Lady, and his
exceeding disdainful, I have made the En-
ment of the Sack, which is strongest of all:
other, cried the Governor, what hast thou
My Mistress is a mere Lioness; for tho' the cap-
Lady Loves him not, yet she shews him some
tenance; and if it goes by Disdain, we need
hundred Sacks, rather than one to conquer her.
Patience Mr. Governor said I, and do not af-
yourself, there is a Remedy for all things but
; I will make the Hairs and Chord to have e-
Force and Power with the Sack; and since
ay your Mistress is so cruel, I will add a small
er to it, so that she shall not be able to have a-
rest or Quiet in her Mind'till she sees you: that
at I desire my Friend, said the Governor; let
artyr and torment her in such a Manner, that
ore shall make her thoughts uneasy to her, and
perform my Business quickly before my Mas-
Enchantment be over.

He then came to the place where I told him his
ment should be made, and instantly making
cle, and teaching him what he should say and
I made him go into the Circle stark naked, be-
I wanted a Shirt; I then took his Mistress's
s, and twisting them with a Chord, I tied his
Hands

Hands therewith to a Branch of a Tree, declaring to him the Mystery that was concealed in every ceremony. I would fain have tyed his Feet, had not thought he would rather Judge that to be the Fact of a Robber than a Magician; but as the Hands were enough for my Purposes, having made the Dumb, Bound and Naked, defended from the sharpness of the Air with the Fire of Love only in the Breasts, no body could hinder me of my Liberty so that striking off my Chain with Two or Three Strokes of the Hammer I carried in my Pocket, and taking one of their Horses and all their Clothes, soon rode out of Sight, and being Armed like another St. George, I took the High-way to Lyons, not having the opportunity to procure the Freedom of my Friend *Anthony*, nor have had any Intelligence since, how it fared with my two deluded Coxcombs.

FROM hence we may observe, That when once this Passion of wanton Love has taken Possession of the Mind, it darkens the Understanding and clouds the Reason, so that in Hopes of possessing the desired object, the Lover is often Persuaded to believe things improbable, yea, impossible to be effected and thereby exposes himself to be imposed upon those that design to deceive and delude him.

AFTER this unexpected Success I arrived at Lyons, joyful to find myself at Liberty and the owner of 24 double Pistoles of Gold, which I found in the Captain's Pocket, and having made myself brave and gallant with the Governor's Clothes, I fell in Love with a great many Ladies, who supposing me to be a Man of Quality they were very obliging and I received particular Favours from several of them.

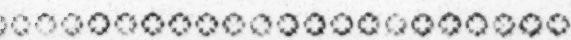
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To keep up my Reputation I frequented the
 any of the Principal Merchants of the Town
 telling them I expected a large Quantity of
 mandize from *Venice*, I was much respected
 honoured by them: And the Women were
 y fond, pretending to sigh, and have a great
 els for me, though I was not so blind but to
 re, that the Beauty of my Gold, and not my
 n. was the principal Motive of their Love to
 But my Money being soon spent in such a
 e of Life, I fell to my old Employment of
 ing and Theft, and at length being taken in
 nious Action, I was sent to Prison, and con-
 ed to the Gallies again, where I am like to con-
 to the End of my Days without Redemption.



NOVEL VIII.

TWO ALPHONSO'S. *A Young Man and a Young
 woman so exactly resembled each other, that the
 ference could not be easily discerned, which
 asioned several surprizing Mistakes and Misad-
 ntures. At length to secure themselves they fled
 to Africa and were married.*

THE Wife of a *Spanish* Merchant who trad-
 ed into the *Levant*, being taken Prisoner by
 Pyrates, and her Husband slain in the Fight,
 was sold to one of the principal *African* Lords,
 whose ordinary Residence was at *Tunis*: who in a
 time became enamoured of his Slave, and

Finding

finding her too virtuous to yield to his ungoverned Appetite, he resolved to Marry her. He had one Daughter by her, which he called *Feliciano*, after the Name of her Mother. The Mother and Daughter created in him a kindness for the *Spanish* Nation, and allowed her to teach his Daughter that Language as her Mother Tongue; and when any *Spaniard* of Quality came into *Barbary*, he lodged them usually in his own House, and performed all good Offices in his Power toward them. *Alphonso*, Son to *Don Garcias* at *Alcantara*, came to *Tunis* to treat about the Ransom of his Elder Brother, who sailing into *Greece* was taken by the Pirates, and exchanged with certain Slaves of *Barbary*. *Alphonso* was too young to be intrusted alone with so considerable a Negotiation: He was appointed only for the Ceremonial Part; for there was an old Servant of his Father's sent along with him to manage the Bargain: He was received by the Father of *Feliciano*, not only as a *Spaniard*, but as a Person particularly related to his Wife; she had been at his Birth, and passed the Prime of her Years in *Don Garcias*, his Father's Family. The young *Feliciano* and he were presently surprized with a violent Inclination for each other; and Nature it seems had delighted herself to prepare Way for their Affection: *Alphonso* resembled the *African* so exactly, that *Feliciano* was so like *Alphonso* that they might easily have been mistaken, had not their Habits distinguish'd both their Sexes and Persons.

*But Love no likeness needs, for he displays
A Thousand Arts, contrives a thousand Ways;
To conquer Peoples Hearts, by secret turns,*

The most unlike, and the most cold he burns;
 All's then combustible when he Conspires,
 No Human Temper can withstand his Fires.

FELICIANA seeing her own Picture in *Alphonso*,
 he did in her, she fell in Love almost at first
 sight; their Looks, their Manner, their Motion,
 every thing in them prevented the use of their
 tongue, so that they instantly made mutual Pro-
 poses: Sympathy is a great Promoter of such Ad-
 ventures. The Negotiation for his Brother was
 at an end, he having obtained his Liberty, and
 was now for returning with all speed to his own
 Country: *Alphonso* used all the Arts and Inventions
 he could find out for continuing in *Barbary*, but his
 Sister was resolved he should go along with him.
 Their Adieu was sorrowful and kind, not without
 many Promises from *Alphonso* to come back again
 in short Time if he lived, and as sincere Assur-
 es from *Felicianna*, never to falsify the Faith she
 had given him.

ALPHONSO being departed, and *Felicianna* very
 impatient for his Return, many Months pass'd, and
 no News of her *Castilian* Lover. There were se-
 veral *Spanish* Ships arrived upon the Coast of *Bar-*
barry, and in them some *Alcantara* Merchants, with
 presents from *Don Garcias* to *Felicianna's* Mother,
 for her Kindness to his two Sons, but no Letter nor
 private Message for her. This negligence startled
 her, she was afraid she was betrayed, and the first
 effect of that Opinion being a Resolution to Re-
 venge the Criminal to his Face; she insinuated
 into a Master of *Biscay*, and persuaded him she
 would go over into *Spain* to turn Christian, she

made him promise to Land her in the Port of *Carthagena*, The Bargain made, and the Hour of her Embarkment arrived, *Felician*a put on a Suit of *Alphonso's* Clothes which he happened to leave behind, and furnishing herself with some Money and chain of Gold, she went aboard the *Biscaur*, and had such a favourable Passage, that she landed without any Accident at *Carthagena*. She there bought a Horse, and taking a Guide, put herself upon the Road to *Alcantara*; she enquired of *Alphonso* where ever she came. In some Places he was not known at all, in others they knew not where he was: At length an old Hostess of *Toledo* told our disguised *African*, there was to be a meeting of all *Don Garcia's* Relations and Friends in that Town within few Days, where a Marriage was to be celebrated between *Don Garcia's* younger Son named *Alphonso*, with *Hypolita de Cuera*, who was reckoned the handsomest young Lady in *Castile*. This News struck *Felician*a to the Heart, neither did she wonder that he was so unkind as never to write to her; she found he had other Affairs upon his Hands; she resolved however to attend him to *Toledo*, and calling herself to be called *Felician*, her Shape and Language concurring so well with her Design, she was not the least suspected: She was Handsome, and her Male Disguise made her Beauty more Rare: She never stirred out of her Inn but she received some Compliment or other.

ONE Evening as she was in the Walks of *Toledo* and had received many Foolish Addresses, a certain Lady in a Vail, came and pulled her privately by the Arm, making Signs she should follow her,

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Liana or *Felician*, as you please, thought this was
 e of *Alphonso's* Mistress, and would have a-
 ded her, but the Lady laying hold on her, Fol-
 w me, said she, thou perfidious *Alphonso*, or I
 ll be the Death of thee: The Name of *Alphon-*
 confirmed *Felician's* Opinion of her; and awaken-
 her Curiosity, so that she followed the Lady into
 r Chamber, where several Candles were lighted.
 he *Spanish* Lady as soon as she entered, turned
 her Vail, and discovered a singular Beauty:
 hence is it *Alphonso*, said she, that you constrain
 e to these Stratagems to gain a little of your con-
 fidence? What reason have you to change your Name,
 d call yourself *Felician*? Why do you conceal your-
 self from *Hypolita de Cuera*? In short, what is this
 mystery, and what Grounds have you for it? *Fel-*
ican perceived by her discourse that it was her Ri-
 val, and resolved to handle her accordingly. This
 mystery, Madam, replied *Felician*, is greater than
 can tell you, but in short, since you will force me,
 must needs confess I am not capable of perform-
 ing our Marriage, and *Don Garcias's* Journey to *Te-*
lo will be in vain, for the Faith you expect so im-
 piently from me, is, alas! engaged to another a
 ng while ago: How, cry'd *Hypolita* in a mighty
 surprize, Is your Faith engaged to another? Yes,
 Madam, continued *Felician*, an *African* Lady, in-
 ferior to yourself, neither in Birth nor in Love, and
 Lover will possibly think she is not much inferior
 you in Beauty, who has received that Faith which
 you Challenge: Ah! why then, thou perfidious Man
 did she, hast thou been so audacious as to promise
 me? I am a Man reply'd *Felician*, and he that names

Man, names Inconstancy; your Beauty made me forget for a while what I owed to my *African*; but I will die a thousand Deaths before I will desert her. Ha! Traytor, cried the disconsolate *Hypolita*, I always suspected the Integrity of your Heart through all your Disguises, I observed a force upon your Actions, which methought gave your Language the Lye; and so vile Man, you know I often told you; but you shall never boast you have captivated *Hypolita* unpunished, what my Kindness cannot procure, my Vengeance shall obtain.

AND then calling up her People to seize upon *Felician*, whom she mistook all the while for *Alphonse*, she ran to her Father's Chamber to give him an account of what she had done; old Signior *Cuera* approved of the Indignation of his Daughter: He commanded *Felician* should be secured that Night, and the next Day she was sent to Prison. A principal Magistrate in the Town was desired to examine her; she began to relent, would have altered her Story, and pretended she was mistaken for another: But the Allegations of *Hypolita*, and the Testimony of several other Persons, who assured him it was *Alphonse*, prevailed so far, that she was threatened to lose her Head if she did not marry *Hypolita*, though she was unwilling to undeceive them, yet in this extremity she writ *Hypolita* word, That she herself was the *African* Lady, and very far from being *Alphonse*, and if she would please to come to the Prison, she might satisfy her own Eyes with the Truth of it.

THIS Letter was delivered to the Keeper, who she desired to convey it to *Hypolita*: she received

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without any difficulty, judging it to be a Decantation, and knew that the whole Family of the *Cue* desired nothing more, but that *Alphonso* should do what he was obliged to without any further Consultation. But it happening that Count *Atrevalo*, the new Governor of *Toledo* made his publick Entry that Day, the Keeper must needs be a Spectator of the Ceremony, and being engaged too far in the Crowd, lost the Letter, which was taken up by one of the Governor's Officers, who finding the Contents little unusual, would needs shew it to his Master; who after reading it was as much surprized as his Servant, and had a great Curiosity to understand the Particulars, and desired to know from Signior *Cue* the difference between him and *Alphonso*. He went for the Prisoner at the same time, and acquainted her what he knew of her Affairs already, desiring her to inform him of the rest; she satisfied his Enquiry, telling him she disguised herself in Man's Apparel to prevent the Marriage between *Alphonso* and *Hypolita*, which she believed was now so near, that it need be no longer a Secret. The Count *Atrevalo*, who by the natural Propensity of his Nation, was inclinable to Love, thought it would be the best Service he could do to both Families, to keep this Lady out of their sight, taking a great liking to this *African*, and fancying great Pleasure to himself, by having such a fair Mistress in his Chamber, without any Relations to call him to an Account; and caused *Felician* to be carried to a Castle a few Days Journey from *Toledo*: Her Removal made a strange Noise in the Town. *Hypolita's* Friends imagined *Don Garcias* had been the occasion

casion of it; whereas, on the contrary, this *Don* who expected to find his Son in good Intelligence with *Hypolita*, was come thither to see her married, and was surprized to hear the News so contrary to his Expectation. He demands his Son *Alphonso*, of Signior *Cuera*, Father to *Hypolita*; and old *Cuera* requires *Don Garcias* to produce his Son. To explain this Intrigue the Governor expected *Alphonso*, but he not appearing, considering he could not declare what he knew, without discovering what he had a mind to conceal, he resolved to say nothing, and leaving the two Fathers to dispute it among themselves, he went to the Castle, whither he had caused *Feliciana* to be conducted.

He ordered the young *African* to put on Women's Cloaths, and Women to attend her, who now thought her as handsome a Lady as she had been a Cavalier: He acquainted her with his Intentions, telling her it was unreasonable that so worthy a Person should be served by an unfaithful Lover, offering himself to repair the Injury she had received from *Alphonso*: *Feliciana* trembled at the Motion, but returned for Answer, That she gave him many Thanks for his noble Proposal, but being come to *Spain* only in quest of her *Alphonso*, she begg'd of him the Liberty to pursue her Design. The Governor would not earnestly contend with her Obstinacy, he had a Mind to be Happy with as little Trouble as he could; he made several rich Presents to the *African*, who modestly refused them all: He shewed her the Rarities of the Castle, but she seemed not to Regard them. He resolved to have a little Patience, and returned to his new G

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ment, leaving *Don Fernand* his Nephew to command, with an exprefs Charge to take care of her Person, and ſo to prepare with his Arguments that he might find her tractable at his Return; but puts his Affairs in ſuch Hands that he was very likely to ſucceed; for *Fernand* was no leſs enamoured with the Beauty of *Felician*a than his Uncle, and at length declared to her the Sentiments of his Soul, and how much he was in Love with her.

ALL Lovers in the World were indifferent to her, the Innocency of *Don Fernand*'s Deſires were of no Advantage at all to him, and ſhe had no more inclination to be his Wiſe than to be Miſtreſs to his Uncle, but judging Prudently that by oppoſing one againſt the other, ſhe might ſecure herſelf from both. She pretended to hearken to *Fernand*'s Propoſitions, and let fall ſome trifling Complacencies on herſelf; a witty Woman is at no great Expence to pleaſe a Man that adores her. *Fernand* was very well pleaſed with her Faveurs. *Felician*a pretended on him to let her Eſcape, upon promiſe to ſtay for him upon the Frontiers of *Aragon*, where in a few Days he engaged to wait upon her, and to conduct her into *France*; he was very deſirous to have gone with her, but ſhe perſuaded him that his ſtaying with his Uncle would make her Eſcape more ſafe and ſure, by directing the Hue and Cry, which he ſuppoſed would be ſent after her, to follow her the wrong Road. The Project being laid, and all things neceſſary Prepared for the Execution, *Felician*a put on her former Habit of a Gentleman, and *Don Fernand* mounted her upon a fine Horſe, which he gave her, and deluding the Vigilance of her women,

men, she stole away one Morning from her second Imprisonment, to seek out him who had Possession of her Heart. *Don Fernand* fastened a Chord to her Bed-Chamber Window, that it might be presumed she had escaped that way, and pretended to be extremely concerned for her going away; and to cover his dissimulation went in Pursuit of her, as if he had had an earnest Desire to have recovered her.

He was but just gone out when *Alphonso* came to repose himself an Hour or two in the Castle, not daring to venture himself in the Towns, for fear of those who were sent in pursuit of him to bring him back, and oblige him to marry *Hypolita*, should seize upon him; and knowing the Magnificence of the Count *d'Atrevalo*, he doubted not, but a stranger in his Garb, would be very well received in any Place belonging to him, nor was he deceived being treated very civilly, made to eat, and *Felicia*'s Appartment being open, the Steward attended the new Guest into her Chamber. There was a Picture of *Feliciano* hung up in her Room extremely like her, for which *Fernand* had beg'd her to sit; he was surprized at the Sight of it, she was dressed in the *Spanish* Mode, which a little disguised her, but however, she was discernable to Eyes less penetrating than a Lovers. He was going to enquire of somebody whose Picture it was, and how it came thither, but mistaking one Door for another, he happened into a little Closet adorned with Pictures, and the Frames covered with Love Knots, wounded Hearts, and double FF, which Fancies augmented his Astonishment, and to heighten it he found

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little Table Book lying open, and written as he conceived with *Feliciano's* own Hand; he took it and read the Verses following:

*Ingrateful Wretch, and Perjured, what can be
Equal to the Guilt of Infidelity?
What more abusive to Love's Laws? What more
Gainst Nature than forget that you have sworn?
But hold! fond Heart, let not his present State,
Expel the Kindness be express of late,
Betray'd I ought, but loving cannot hate.*

AND at the bottom of these Verses there was in Great Characters,

THE PROFESSION OF AMOROUS FAITH.

THIS Title promised some rare and diverting articles, but *Feliciano* had not time to write them, and if she had, *Alphonso* was in such trouble he could not have had the Power to read them. He went down the first Stairs he met with, which led directly into the Chamber where the Governess was Bed; she was a very old Woman, yet seeing a man come into the Room, she shriek'd out, and hid her Face under the Quilt, as if her Virtue had been in danger: *Alphonso* ask'd her Pardon for mistaking the Chamber, he being a Stranger, desiring her to inform him where the Count *d'Atrevado* had got the Picture which hung in a Room hard by; Is it *Feliciano's* Picture you mean, said the old Woman, with her Head in the Bed all the while; Yes reply'd *Alphonso*, 'tis that I speak of: *Don Fernand*, the Governor's Nephew, said the old Matron, caused to be drawn by the Life: And where is that Lady, cry'd *Alphonso* in haste? The Governess was much

much offended with *Felicianas* Escape, finding her Employment very Profitable under her, and was angry that it was at an end by her Flight, and could not speak of her without some ill Language: She is rambling about the World (said the malicious old Woman) she was two Months together in this House where the Count caused her to be treated as if she had been the best Lady in *Castile*; but not being willing to be constrained, and as it seems not accustomed to be content with one Servant, she got away this Night out of her Chamber Window by the help of a Bedchord; no doubt but jealous *Don Ferrand* had a hand in it; I observed long since there was a kindness between them, and when she fate for her Picture, I durst have sworn by their ogling, the poor Count would be betray'd. The old Matron had scarce finished these Words, but two or three of her Women hearing a Noise in the next Chamber where they were, came to see what was the Matter, they no sooner cast their Eyes upon *Alphonso*, but they took him for *Felicianas*; one could not express her Joy to see her returned, another upbraided her for the Fright into which she had put them, and her Confidence in disguising herself in a Man's Apparel: *Alphonso* told them they mistook him for another Person; but they observing him preparing to be gone, and really believing he was *Felicianas*, they threw themselves upon him, crying out for more Help, and in short seized upon him in spite of all the Protestations he made that he was not *Felicianas*.

WHILST these things were in Transaction, the Count *d'Atreval* arrived; he had been told of *Felicianas*

Felicianas

na's Escape by the first he met, and understand-
afterwards what had passed in the Governess's
umber, he repair'd thither with all speed to see
it was the Matter: Which way have I disoblig-
you *Feliciãna*, said he to *Alphonso*, whom he took
first to be the *African*? What have I done that
ould cause you to disguise yourself to escape from
? I love you, I confess, *Feliciãna*, but I appeal
yourself, whether that Passion had ever any Ef-
s that might constrain you to this change of your
parel; submissive Representations have hitherto
n the only Interpreters of my Heart; I required
hing of you but what was lawful, I have kept
two Months together in my House, without a-
ing my Power, and have restrained my Affecti-
within the severe bounds of Civility: Why then
Feliciãna do you fly from me? I am not she you take
for, Sir, said he to the Count, I know my Re-
semblance may cause you to mistake; but though
ature has made our Faces alike, yet our Minds
e different; her's is as disloyal as mine is faithful.
his he said, as being jealous that she was gone a-
y with *Don Fernand*. The Count having had
sure, whilst *Alphonso* was speaking, to examine
more strictly, discerned some Difference betwixt
u and his *African*; his Stature was larger of the
o, his Features somewhat different, and he per-
ved some Appearances of a Beard; so that he be-
n to think it must be *Alphonso*, and therefore look-
upon him, rather as his Rival than his Mistress,
caused him to be closely confined, and sent to ac-
unt the Father of *Hypolita* of his Detention, and
ed he would die but he would make *Alphonso*

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marry the Lady *Hypolita*.

IN the mean time *Feliciana* was making her escape, not knowing whither she was going, nor what Place to find Protection; she durst not continue in *Castile*, neither could she resolve to go back into *Barbary*, much less would she go to the Place where she had appointed to meet *Don Fernando*. She took the left Hand Way, where she had promised to go to the Right, and to the contrary, and was equally fearful of losing or not losing her way, not without Imprecations against the Ingrateful *Alphonso*, who had brought her into this Perplexity. Being in the height of these sorrowful Reflections, she entered into a Wood, but knew not which way to get out of it; she was in great Danger of passing the next Night in that Solitude, when by Accident she met a Gentleman who having strictly viewed her once or twice made up to speak to her: The poor *Feliciana* was so possess'd with Fear that forgetting her Disguise, she apprehended the Gallant would prove some new Lover, and she put spurs to her Horse to escape him if she could; but the Cavalier crying out after her, Hold Sirrior *Alphonso*, 'tis your most faithful *Mendoza*, she recollected herself, and became so curious as to look back; she resolv'd to make Advantage of this Accident, and reply'd, I did not know you indeed as I was passing, but well, how does the fair *Hypolita*? *Hypolita*, Sir, said *Mendoza*, would not receive your Letter; she told me you were a Traitor, and that she abhor'd your very Name, that she would not Prosecute your Death, that she was as generous as to joyce in your Safety; but that she

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should not for the future, abuse her Easiness and Integrity, unless you desired to provoke her Fury against you; I intreated her to explain her Discourse, and assured her I knew nothing of it, but my Ignorance was taken for an Artifice, and she threatened to have me Apprehended, and to make me confess the Place of your Retreat, and where I was to meet you upon Pain of being put upon the Rack: I had no Directions to inform her, and her Rage making me think she would be as good as her word, I made haste out of *Toledo*, and I would advise you to get as far off as you can also; for knowing how things stand in your own Conscience, my Opinion, Sir, is, that there will be no Safety for you in this place: *Mendoce* then gave her *Alphonso's* Letter, supposing her to be his Master, which she stepping aside, that he might not perceive the trouble it gave her, she opened it, and read as follows:

MADAM,

YOUR Desert is too great to be made the Object of a Counterfeit Passion; My Heart is entirely another Person, and I cannot obtain from its honest Sentiments, that it should constrain itself any longer, you will call me Treacherous and Perjured; but Madam, 'tis to avoid being so, that I expose myself to them. The Suspicions of *Don Garcias*, my Father, made me Guilty of a Procedure contrary to my nature; I could not disengage myself from his Vigilance, but by pretending Love unto you, and I could wish with all my Heart, my Pretences were in earnest, that I might do Justice to your Charms. But, Madam, the Affections of a Man's Heart depend not upon himself, Pardon mine then, I beseech you, a Crime it could not

commit, and if you be generous, complain, but do not
abhor me.

THERE WAS NOT a Word in this Letter, but was
a wholesome Antidote against *Feliciana's* Jealousy;
when she had read it, *Mendocce* proceeded, there is
no room now, Sir, said he, for unseasonable Con-
templations; your Time is but Short, and since
you are at last resolved to return into *Africa*, why
will you not take this Opportunity, and hasten to
the next Port: There is a Vessel ready, and you
have no more to do but to go Aboard and set Sail;
besides, let me tell you, I heard a whispering
among some People, who baited at my Inn, which
makes me jealous of your Person; they said, that
you were Apprehended, and that the Count de *Atre-
valo* had sworn to make you marry *Hypolita*; I see
now these Fellows were mistaken; but, however,
I beseech you, Sir, let us save ourselves if we can.
Hypolita is highly offended, and will contrive some
mischief against you, if she be not prevented. *Felici-
ana* was wonderfully pleased with the Assurance of
Alphonso's Fidelity, thinking herself the happiest
Woman in the World. She then turned serious
upon *Mendocce*, conjuring him to tell her where she
might find *Alphonso*: The Man was so affrighted
at that Question, that he was ready to run away
from her, and taking her still to be his Master, he
ask'd her trembling, if she were not out of her wits.
No *Mendocce*, said she, I am not out of my wits, but
have recover'd them: She then told him her Name
and that she was come into *Spain* on purpose to
seek *Alphonso*: What *Mendocce* had heard his Mas-
ter talk of formerly, of the exact resemblance betwixt
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Feliciano and himself, instantly confirm'd him in the truth of all she had told him. He fell on his Knees and gave thanks that their Journey was shortned, and conducting the *African* where his Master had appointed to meet him that Night; he gave her an account as he travelled, that *Alphonso's* Brother had a suspicion of their Amour before his Departure out of *Africa*, that he had Advertised his Father of it, his Return, and that the old Man having intercepted several Letters, by which *Alphonso* assured *Feliciano* he would be with her e'er long, he caused him to be so narrowly watch'd, that he could not take a step but *Don Garcias* had notice. That being weary of this Persecution he had pretended Love to *Hypolita de Cuera*, who was gone to see one of her Aunts at *Alicantara*, that *Don Garcias* believing he was in earnest, had concluded the Articles with *Hypolita's* Father, and constrained *Alphonso* to Sign them, but that a few Days after he made his Escape and got off to a Friends House, who furnish'd him with Money for his Voyage into *Africa*, whither he was then ready to go, and had been there before his time, had the Season of the Year been proper for his Voyage: With such Discourses he entertain'd *Feliciano* to the Place where she expected to meet her *Alphonso*, and where she found him in effect; but, alas! not in the Condition she desired. The Count *d'Atrevado* having News that the Count *d'Benavent*, a great Lord in *Castile*, and the other of his best Friends were coming to his House, and doubting that *Alphonso* might take advantage to make his Escape by the Disorder of such Company was like to occasion; being ab-

solutely resolved to secure the Possession of *Felicia* by forcing *Alphonso* to marry *Hypolita*, he caused him to be conveyed to a Fort upon the Frontiers of *Murcia*, not above a Days Journey from thence. The Prisoner went away late from the Count's House, and could not reach his Stage; he was forced to lie by the Way, and it happened that his Quarters were taken up for him in the same Inn, where he appointed *Mendocce* to meet with him; the like Fortune contrived, that *Don Fernand* returning from the search he pretended to make, was come to the same Place: *Felicia* saw him come into the Court, through the Window in her Chamber, and the very Sight of him made her like to have run away; but a new fancy coming into her Head in that Instant, she sent *Mendocce* to let him know *Felicia* would speak with him, and ordered one of *Alphonso's* Servants to conduct him into a little Court, into which she observed one of her Windows to look, *Don Fernand* came with Joy to the Window: My dear *Fernand*, said she, as softly as possible, Heaven has sent you once more to my Relief, I am taken again; 'tis I that am conducting to the Frontier of *Murcia*, the Count *d'Atreval* takes me for *Alphonso*, but suffice not yourself to be deceived by our Resemblance, I am *Felicia*, and to convince you, see there, said she, throwing the Table Book to him, see what you gave me when I took my Leave of you at the Count's Castle; you shall find there the Roads you directed me to take, which you set down with your own Hand, save me now once more if you can possibly.

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she then pull'd in her Head and retired, as if she had been afraid to be overheard.

Don Fernand instantly fell upon contriving how to rescue the Prisoner, whom he thought to be *Feliciano*; he went to the Officer who commanded the Guard, and told him the Count having Occasion to employ him with all speed at the Castle, had sent himself to execute his Place: The Officer knowing him to be the Count's Nephew, made no scruple to resign his Office to *Don Fernand*, and sent away Post to the Castle, *Fernand* instantly commanded the Convoy to Horse, and disposed them, some in one Post, some in another, 'till they were placed far enough asunder: *Don Fernand* then running to *Alphonso's* Bed, come let us save ourselves now *Feliciano*, said he, all things are ready for our Escape; we will go to *Cartagena*, and from thence to *Barbary*, pray make haste for time is precious: *Alphonso* soon understood who he took him for, but was unwilling to rectify his error, which was like to procure his Liberty: He dress'd himself and followed the *Don*, they took horse privately, and march'd directly for *Cartagena*: By the way, as soon as *Don Fernand* found himself out of Danger, My Dear *Feliciano*, said he, putting one of his Arms about his Neck, we are at length delivered from the Tyranny of the Count *d'Atrevalo*, he shall disturb our Felicity no more, and thanks to the Counsel you gave me, we shall find in *Barbary* that Repose, which we durst not so much as hope for in *Castile*; but tell me, my Dear, how came you to deceive my Uncle, and by what good Fortune did you find the Way

of speaking to me Yesterday. *Alphonso* understood but one Part of his Discourse, but that was sufficient to inform him it was the Count's Nephew who talk'd to him, and who rescued *Feliciano* from the Hands of his Uncle the first Time, and was likewise his Rival: This Consideration transported him with Jealousy and Fury; he clap'd his Hand upon one of *Don Fernand's* Pistols, and turning short. Thou shalt dye, vile Man, said he, and thy Blood shall Revenge the Perfidiousness of my ingrateful Mistress. *Don Fernand* was so surprized at this Action. he took it at first for a Dream. He look'd upon himself, he stared upon *Alphonso*, he knew he was *Don Fernand*, but he took his Rival for his Mistress, and being clearly transported he demanded of *Alphonso* if he had lost his Senses, or whether he knew him or not: I know you too well, replied *Alphonso*, but you do not know me, Defend yourself therefore, or your Life will be in Danger.

FELICIANA and *Mendocce* came in just as *Alphonso* had spoke these Words: They had watch'd when *Don Fernand* departed, and traced them all the way: Hold *Alphonso*, cryed the *African*, forcing herself between them, do not attempt the Life of a Person to whom you are indebted for your *Feliciano*. These Words, and the Sight of *Feliciano* opened *Don Fernand's* Eyes, and he became sensible of his Mistake: He remembered he had heard talk of the Resemblance between them, and concluding it was his Rival he had delivered, he would have fallen upon him: Be patient, said the *African*, your Fury at this Time will be in vain, I doubt not but

troubles you that you have Rescued your Rival
 instead of your Mistress, and it must be great Re-
 gret to you to have twice betrayed your Uncle,
 when you consider the Effects of that Treason
 were nothing else, but the delivering up *Felician*
to her Alphonso, but there is a Destiny in Love,
 as in other Things; you were not Born to be more
 happy in your Love, I am sorry for it with all my
 heart, and wish Cupid may Comfort you: As for
 myself, 'tis not in my Power, I am young *Alphon-*
so, and can be no bodies else.

HAVING ended her Speech, she whipt on her
 Horse, and *Alphonso* and *Mendocce* followed: *Alphonso*
 had like to have left her at first Sight, so strange an
 impression had the Opinion of her Inconstancy
 made in him; but *Mendocce* perceiving it, came
 up to him, and conjured him not to be so Fierce,
 as he could assure him his Mistress was Innocent;
 what she said to *Don Fernand* confirm'd his Report,
 so that *Alphonso* followed her much better satisfied
 than when he first fell upon *Don Fernand* who pre-
 tended to oppose their Flight, at least not to leave
 them; but his trouble not permitting him to manage
 his Horse, he ran upon a Rock before he was a-
 ware, and fell off upon the Ground. The two
 Lovers did not hold it any Charity to relieve him;
 they did with all haste to *Cartagena*, and from
 thence sailed with all speed to *Africa* where the sin-
 gularity of *Alphonso's* Intentions made the Father and
 Mother of *Felician* forget what their Daughter had
 done. The Fury of the Count *d'Atreval* was so
 great upon the News that the Two Lovers were
 killed safely in *Barbary*, that not content to ex-

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ercise his Rage upon *Don Fernand* his Nephew, who was pursued and Slain by his Order; he extended it to all that had any Intimacy or Relation to *Alphonso*; yea he persecuted *Don Garcias* his Father severely, supposing he was concerned in his Escape; he took away the best Part of his Estate; he caused his Eldest Son to be executed, and forced the old Man to fly for Sanctuary to his younger Son in *Africa*.



NOVEL IX.

The Cheats of Mucio, an accomplished Thief, with his Comical Tricks and Shams to defraud many People of their Money and Goods, which brought him at length to the Gallows.

MUCIO was Born in the Province of *Chartres* in *France*, who before he attained to a Man's Estate, being of a rambling Humour, deserted his Father's House and came to *Paris*, where he soon conformed with those that reduced him to Poverty, and then drew him into Robbers and cheating, which he had not long continued, but he happened to take notice of one *Charles Estampes*, who dwelt in *Harp-freet* in that City, and had a Brother in the Town of *Chartres*, a married Man and very Rich, but without Children; he knowing this Brother of his, and the Country, and Place where he dwelt, comes to Monsieur *Charles Estampes* and to him he came from *Chartres* to bring him both go-

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and bad News; the bad News consisting in the Death of his Brother *Francis*, for which he himself was very sorrowful, and the good News that he had made him Heir and Executor to his whole Estate. The Merchant hearing this, was much afflicted for the Death of his Brother, whom he dearly loved, not valuing the Estate since he had enough before. But Friend, said he, to *Mucio*, Have you no Letter for me? How came you to hear this News? Sir, said *Mucio*, to tell you the Truth, I came late last Night into the City without one Farthing of Money, being Robb'd about Five Miles off, and was constrained for my Night's Lodging to Pawn my Doublet, wherein was sewed a Letter from one of your Uncles, which I would have taken out, but my Landlord would not suffer me, in hopes I would Redeem it for the sake of the Letter: He then Names to him his Father and his other Relations, and answers readily all Questions demanded of him concerning his Friends in those Parts; so that not suspecting him, he gives him Five Shillings to Redeem his Doublet.

Mucio departed, and about two Hours after returns with a Letter directed, *To my worthy Nephew Mr. Charles d'Estampes, Merchant in Harp-Street, Paris, To this Effect.*

GOOD COUSIN,

I Am much grieved that I am enforced by this Bearer, to certify you of the sudden and unexpected Death of your Brother; he was not Sick above Three Hours, in which short Time, being sensible of his End approaching, he by Will settled his Estate, and hath made you his Heir and Executor.

2 *cutor: I would therefore advise you to hasten into the Country as soon as conveniently you can, to settle your Affairs: If in the mean Time you will write or send, you may safely do it by this Bearer, who is very faithful in what he undertakes:*

Your Loving Uncle,

D' ESTAMPES.

THE Merchant having read this Letter Communicates it to his Wife, who being of a covetous Disposition tho' she had no Children, was more joyful for the Estate her Brother had left than sorrowful for his Death, and kindly entertained the Messenger that brought the News, which made *Mucio* hope to succeed in his Design, which was to Rob the Merchant if he were admitted to Lodge in the House, as accordingly he was: In the Night he opened the Door, and gave forth several Goods to his Companions, and in the morning hastened to be gone; but it happened that before he was discovered or got out of the Town, he had Notice that the Merchants Wife was fallen very Sick, this he knew would hinder his Journey for some time: he therefore returns to *Chartres* to practice the same Cheat on the Merchants Brother, that he had done to himself. Being arrived, he framed a Letter directed to Monsieur *Estampes* from his Brothers Wife, as follows:

BROTHER,

SINCE I had the Opportunity of Writing to you last, Fortune hath taught me to what a depth of Sorrow she can depress a poor lusingling Woman; for Death enying the Happiness enjoyed by a Loving Husband, hath now bereaved

me of him, by a fatal Pleurisy, which carried him off in two Days Time. And since he hath made you his Executor, and by Will disposed of one Part of his Estate; for your Benefit I thought it necessary to give you speedy Notice of it, to express my great Affection for him and Love for you:

I remain

Your forlorn Sister,

ELIZ. ESTAMPES.

Mucio goes with this Counterfeit Letter to Monsieur D'Estampes's Brother, signifying that he was his Servant, who was very much concerned at the Contents. The Brothers having an entire Love for each other, and for his Sake this Villain was kindly received. In the mean time he puts himself in Mourning for his Brother's Death; and having settled his Domestick Affairs, prepares for his Journey to Paris: And Mucio was not Idle the while, but watching his Opportunity while most of the Family were at Church, and the rest not suspecting him, he met with a Casket of Rich Diamonds, which being so valuable a Prize, he seized and soon became Invisible, and not to be found. The Brother proceeds on his Journey; so that now here are two several Men, parted from several Places, and going to different Places, about one and the same Affair, both of them enjoying their Perfect Health, and both by each other thought to be Dead, neither of them as yet discovering the Cheats that Mucio put upon them, nor the cunning Thefts that he had been guilty of.

CHARLES D'ESTAMPES now begins his Journey towards Chartres to settle his Brother's Affairs, while

Francis

Francis was travelling to *Paris* upon the same Account. It happened that the Elder Brother being either better Horsed, or setting out sooner, came to an Inn in the Midway between both Places, and the younger happened into the same Inn: After having Supp'd, not seeing one another, they both went into their Chambers which had several Beds in it, through which those who Lodged in the next Chamber, must necessarily pass. It happened when they were in Bed, that *Charles* heard his Brother *Francis* speak to the Chamberlain, and knowing his Voice, concluded it must be his Brother's Spirit, but afterward considering that the Voice of another might be like his, he blows out the Candle and settles himself to Sleep. About an Hour after the other Brother going into the Yard upon a necessary Occasion, and passing near his Brother's Bed, talking to the Chamberlain, he Wakes at the Noise, and began to be in a terrible Fright, for now he thought he heard him more distinctly, and had a glimpse of his Face; the other goes forward, and upon his Return was so curious, as with his Candle to take a view of him who lay so near him, who opening his Eyes knew his Countenance and shrank under the Clothes, that he might no more be troubled with his Apparition, his whole Body trembling by Reason of his extream Fear. The Young *D'Estampes* likewise knew his Brother, and being amazed to see him there, whom he certainly believed was Dead let fall the Candle, and ran away with all speed, having the same Conceit that 'twas his Brother's Ghost; so that they were both exceedingly af-

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frighted at these strange Visions. They continued all Night in great Perplexity; and Day appearing, the Elder Brother riseth first, and Dresses himself in Mourning; the younger likewise forsakes his Bed at the same Time; being both ready, *Francis* goes down to enquire of the Landlord, who it was that lay in the next Chamber to his; but seeing his Brother in Mourning he retired in great Confusion. The other makes the same enquiry of the Landlord, who telling him the Gentleman was of *Chartres*, he began to take Courage, and to hope that the News of the Death of his Brother was not true; but then he wondered why he was in Mourning: In short, the Landlord, bringing them together, they embraced each other with the greatest Affection, admiring at so strange an Accident.

They then relate to each other the Roguery of *Mucio* in delivering feigned Letters: Having spent some Time in Mirth, each returned to his own Home, where the one discovered the loss of Jewels, and the other of his Goods by the villany of *Mucio*.

As necessity is said to be the Mother of Invention, so those that Practise unjust ways are usually in want, though their Robberies are sometimes of considerable Value; which being soon consumed, they are compelled to find out new Inventions for supplying their Extravagancies. For though *Mucio* had made a good Prize of the two Brothers; yet Poverty staring him in the Face, he enrolled himself among a Crew of Pick-pockets, who made the New-Bridge at *Paris*, their usual Redezvous: He associated himself with two of the most accomplished

plished of the Band of Thieves, and having insinuated himself into the Acquaintance of one of the Friars of the Convent of the *Cordeliers*, he resolved to make him Act in a Comedy of his own contriving, and thus Discourses him.

‘GOOD FATHER,

‘I HAVE a Brother that within these few Days is fallen into such a Melancholy Condition for the loss of his Wife, whom he loved very tenderly, that his Grief for her hath almost distracted him: Sometimes he tells us he sees her Ghost, and talks with her. I am therefore come to intreat you to use your endeavour to reduce him to his right Mind, and to settle his distracted Senses; otherwise I doubt, that Satan, who fills his Imaginations with Chimera's, will bring him into an irrecoverable Madness. To Morrow I will bring him to you, that you may admonish him, and by your Ghostly Counsel dispel those thick Fumes of Sorrow that darken his Understanding: Amidst his Ravings and idle Discourse, he cries out, that he is Robbed, and demands his Money, Plate and other Things to be restored to him; we have given him Physick to purge out those noxious Humours, but to no Effect: However, I hope your Advice will rectify his mind, and reduce him to Reason.’ Pray bring him, says the Fryar, and I will use my best Endeavours to calm his Spirits. This Distemper proceeds from the dryness of his Brain, caused by vehement and excessive Sorrow.

Upon these Words, *Mucio* being in great Hope his Project would take, returns with joy to his Companions, and the next Morning very Early,

he and one of them in the Habit of a Priest goes to the Exchange and cheapneth a Silver Chalice of Eight Pounds Value, they soon agreed of the Price, for which they designed never to pay: The Goldsmith expected his Money from the pretended Priest but *Mucio* told him that they had it not upon them desiring him to go along with them to the Convent of the *Cordeliers*, and there he should be Paid. They went directly thither about Nine in the morning, entertaining the Goldsmith all the Way with such Pious Discourse, that he could not possibly suspect them, being come to the Gate, *Mucio* seeming well acquainted in the Convent, rang the Bell, and desired to speak with such a Father; the Porter answered, that he was at Church; Sir, said he, to the Goldsmith, you may leave the Plate with the Porter, whilst we go to hear Mass, and as soon as it is done, you shall receive your Money. He thereupon delivered the Chalice to the Porter; so they went into the Vestry where the Fryar aforementioned was putting on his Cope to say Mass, *Mucio* steps to him and whispers him in the Ear, that this was the Man of whom he spoke to him the Day before. The Fryar dreaming nothing of the Cheat, turns to the Goldsmith, my Friend, says he, have a little Patience 'till Mass is ended, and I will satisfy you.

The Goldsmith not doubting his Money, having the Fryar's Word for it, as he imagined, was content to stay and take his Place in the Chancel, where *Mucio* and his Companion staid till the time of Offering; but being unwilling to neglect the present Occasion, he tells the Goldsmith privately

ly, that they would go before to the next Tavern, which they named, and drink a Glass of Wine, where they would expect his Company when the Fryar had paid him; content says the Goldsmith, I'll come to you, not in the least doubting any deceit, since he had not only the Fryar's promise, but had seen the Plate delivered into the Hands of the Porter of the Convent. *Mucio* mean while goes with his Comrade to the Porter and asks for the Chalice which he had left with him, pretending the Priest was going to say Mass in a Chappel near adjoining, at the request of some devout Ladies, as the manner is in *France*. The Porter readily delivered the Chalice to them, who instantly marched off, and when they got out of the Gate mended their Pace, and were soon got out of Sight.

MASS being over, the Fryar came into the Vestry, whither the Goldsmith followed him cheerfully, preparing his Bag and Gold Weights to receive Money for his Chalice. The Innocent Fryar calling him aside, began to examine him, My Friend, says he, is it not long since your Wife died, and have you been often troubled with this Malady, for I must search into the Cause and beginning thereof? What Wife, says the Goldsmith, I have no Wife. I am not Married; this is not the Occasion that brought me hither? I know well enough, replied the Fryar, that you are not Married; but it is necessary to know how long it is since she died, that I may the better apply a Remedy to your Grief. Sure, said the Goldsmith, you mistake me for some other Man, I have no Wife, neither intend to have any; I come only to receive my Money that is due

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to me. My Friend said the Fryar, I know very well you would demand Money; however, I do not doubt but to restore you to your Senses: Have you been at Confession since you perceived yourself troubled with this Malady? Have you purged your Conscience from the Evil Deeds you have done, by Confession and Repentance? For sometimes we are afflicted for our Sins and Offences: Excuse me that I make such a narrow Scrutiny into your Affairs, since I do it for your Good.

PARDON me, Sir, says the Goldsmith, if I am of the Opinion, that one of us wants our Understanding, and is not in his right Mind. I have nothing to do with your Tale of a Cock and a Bull, I demand Eight Pounds which you are to pay me, or deliver me my Goods again, without putting me off with Tricks and Shams. Have Patience, my Friend, says the Fryar, I will do my best to give you Content, but what I say to you is for your Benefit, you ought not to be so Cholerick, but should first seek a Remedy for your Soul, and after that you ought to take Physick for the cure of your Body; all these violent Passions proceeding from an indisposition and driness in the Brain. Do you think to pay me in such Coin as this, says the Goldsmith: Pray Sir, either pay me the Eight Pounds which we agreed for, or else restore my Chalice, there is no reason you should detain my Goods, and Fob me off with your Clergy Nonsense.

THE Fryar not discerning, either by his discourse or Carriage any token of Distraction in him, began to suspect some Cheat in the Matter, and *Mucio* being invisible, gave much Cause of Suspicion: What Chalice

Chalice do you speak off, says the Fryar, had I ever any Chalice of you? I demand Money, says the Goldsmith for the Chalice, for which you sent two Gentlemen, to whom you spoke to before Mass: The Price agreed upon was Eight Pounds, we left it with the Porter to deliver it to you, for proof whereof, you may enquire of the Porter himself, or send for those that came along with me, they are not far off, for they stay for me at the next Tavern, where I promised to come to them: The Fryar hearing this Relation began to alter his Opinion; 'Tis true, said he, that the Person who came to me half an Hour ago. was with me Yesterday, and acquainted me that he had a Brother much troubled in Mind for the loss of his Wife, whom he so dearly loved, that he began through Melancholy and Sorrow to be besides himself, often imagining that he talked with her Ghost, and that I would do a Work of Charity to use my Endeavour to settle him again in his right Mind. I therefore ask your Pardon for my Impertinent Discourse; for I did suppose you to be the Man of whom I informed you, but as for the Chalice I know nothing of it, perhaps he mistook me for the Guardian of *Compeign*, who I am told much resembles me, I will go along with you to him; whither being come, the Guardian declared he knew nothing of the Matter, having given no order for buying a Chalice.

THE Goldsmith hereupon began to fear they were Cheats; they go back to the Porter to demand the Chalice, who answers them, That it was true they delivered one to him while they went to Mass, but the Priest who delivered it to him had carried

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it away to go say Mass in another Place, and that questionless they would find him in some Chappel thereabout. The Goldsmith hereupon began to threaten the Porter to make him Pay for it; but he told him he could no way hurt him since he had delivered it to him that gave it into his Hand. After many Angry Words had passed between them, the Goldsmith went to the Tavern, and all the Chap-pels adjoining, but could find none of his Chap-men, and so was obliged to be contented with his Loss and go home without Money.

Mucro being successful in his Villanies, he was encouraged to proceed, and venture upon other Stratagems and Cheats. Among the rest, the following Exploit was performed by him and his Companion, not much unlike the last. Upon an Holy *Saturday* (as they call it in *Paris*) there was a great Market of Hens, Partridges, Rabbits, Pullets and other Provisions against the next Day, which was a Festival. He and his Companion going abroad to seek for Prey, they met with a Country Man loaded with Capons and other Fowls; one of them coming up to him, pretended to buy all that he had, and cheapning the Goods for some time, at length they came to an agreement, and the Cheat was to give ten Nobles for all his Ware, and gave it to his Fellow to carry Home; he himself staid behind with his Hand in his Pocket, as if he designed to pay him; he searched all his Pockets, at length he pulls out a great Purse, and then a little one, to amuse the Boor till his Comrade was got out of Sight, Friend says he, I have not Money enough about me, but go along with me and you shall be paid: The Fellow was

was content, and went after him almost a Trot; the Rascal thinking by crossing several Streets he should lose his Chapman, but the Rustick was as Light-footed as himself, being always at his Heels; whereupon he stept into St. *Austin's* Church, where the Fryars were, Confessing some ignorant Bigots; he pretended to say a Prayer, and then turning to the Boor. The Provisions Friend, that I bought of you, says he, was for this Convent, I will go and tell the Fryar he must pay you. He then goes to the Confessor along with the Clown, and calling him aside; he put Six Pence into his Hand, and whispering him in the Ear, Father, says he, this Country Man is one of my Acquaintance, and comes to be confess'd, he lives ten Miles off and must go Home to Night, therefore pray dispatch him out of Hand. The good Father obliged by being Paid before Hand assured him, that when he had ended the Penitent's Confession that was before him upon his Knees, he would instantly satisfy him; he then calling to the Clown, Friend, says he, the Father will dispatch you as soon as he has done Confessing that Man; yes, said the Fryar, I will give you Content presently; with these Words *Mucio* parted from him, and the Country Man staid, reckoning upon his Fingers how much Money he should lay out for Shoes, Stockings and other necessaries.

THE Penitent being dismissed, the Fryar makes a Sign to the Clown to draw near; but did not find him in such a trembling Posture as he expected, and was much offended that he shewed so little Devotion. The Clown stood bolt upright without kneeling, looking earnestly upon the Confessor to see if

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he put his Hand in his Pocket to Pay him his Money, and the Confessor stared upon him, astonished to see him so indevout, but imputing it to his Ignorance as he was a Boor, he bid him Kneel; the Rustick thought it an extraordinary Ceremony to Kneel to receive Money, and muttered at it; however he fell on his Knees, he then bid him make the Sign of the Cross, and proceed to his Confession; whereat the Clown was out of all Patience, thinking the Confessor was out of his Wits, and began to Swear with great Obstinacy. This made the Fryar conclude he was certainly possesst by the Devil, and making the Sign of the Cross began to conjure him; and put St. *Austin's* Girdle about him, which he believed would soon rout the evil Spirit out of him; and then proceeded to utter some Prayers, at which the Country Man was so enraged, that taking the good Father by the Surplice, he trip'd up his Heels and threw him flat on the Ground, demanding aloud Money for his Poultry: The Father imagining all the Fiends of Hell were surrounding him, began to say the Litany with a low Voice, and praying to all the Saints in the Kalendar to Assist him.

At the Noise that they both made, the whole Convent was alarmed, and the Monks came in Procession with the Cross and lighted Candles, casting Holy-Water on every side, and believing there was a Legion of Devils in the Church, they came where the Boor and the Fryar were in Debate, the former demanding Money for his Poultry, and the Prior having examined both Parties, he perceived they were both Innocent, and that the Rustick had a villanous Cheat put upon him. At length
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some Devout People that were in the Church, to prevent any further Disturbance, paid the Country-Man his Money, who went home very joyfully.

Mucio still continued his Robberies and Cheats, and at length Circumvented *Alcander*, the most famous Physician in *Paris*, who was counted very Rich, and seldom went abroad without a good Sum about him. One Night about Nine o'Clock, *Mucio* observing him going about the City among his Patients, did not doubt but he had Pick'd up some Money for the Cures he had Performed; and attending for his coming Home in a By-Street, at length perceiving him at a Distance, he hastens towards him, Sir, said he, I am very happy in meeting you, who I know to be a Gentleman of great Skill and Success in your Profession; I humbly beg you will Please to go along with me and visit my Wife, who for Ten or Twelve Days past has such a Flux, that she can eat nothing, and her Body is quite empty for want of Sustenance. *Alcander* hoping to have a good Patient of his Wife, the Husband appearing like a Gentleman, Sir, said he, I will wait upon you, and will use the utmost Skill I have for the Recovery of the Gentlewoman: *Mucio* then leads him from one Street to another, 'till he came to his Lodging, where having shut the Door, he takes up a Pistol in one Hand, and an empty Purse in the other, and coming up to the Doctor, Sir, says he, shewing him his Purse, this is my Wife, and you may perceive that by her Emptiness her Bowels seem clung together. Now, Sir, you must find out a Remedy for this Distemper, or else this Pistol must procure

procure it. The Doctor trembling to find himself surprized in this Manner, durst not cry out, because the Villain held the Pistol to his Breast; so that he was obliged to fill the Purse empty, and launch with a considerable Sum of Money. *Mucio* then told him that he would not be so uncivil, as not to see him safe Home, holding the Pistol all the while at his Breast, lest he should make an Outcry, and coming to *Alcander's* House, boldly knock'd at the Door; but before it was opened seized his Cloak, telling him he much doubted he should be overtaken with a Shower of Rain; and then took his leave of him, making away with all speed. The Physician remembered the House, and went next Day to find out his Patient, but he had left his Lodging, having wherewithal to take another, and Cheated both his Landlord and the Doctor, who were forced to be contented, as knowing no Way to retrieve their Losses.

I SHALL conclude with the Relation of one more of his Robberies. Those of his Profession are very Sharp in their Remarks upon all Occasions. *Mucio* had taken Notice of a Wealthy Merchant (as they call Shop-keepers in *France*) who Sold surplices and Copes (which are Vestments of Rich Silk, which the *Romish* Priests put on when they say Mass) and that he put the Money he took in a great Purse hanging by his Side. He therefore resolved, if possible, to have a Snatch at it, To which end he clothed himself like a Country Farmer, and coming into the Shop, Sir, says he to the Merchant, I am Church Warden of *Gentilly* parish, and have orders to buy a fine Cope for our

Parson; Pray shew me a handsome one, and we shall not disagree about the Price. The Merchant was very diligent in exposing his Goods. *Mucio* at length pitch'd upon a very gaudy one, but, says he, I doubt whether it will fit our Curate, he is much of the same Stature as yourself; and if you will be so kind to try it on, I shall see whether it will do or no: The Merchant doubting nothing puts it on his Back, which the pretended Church Warden having exactly view'd, I like it very well, said he, only one side seems shorter than another. The Merchant supposing the bulkiness of his Purse underneath was the Cause of it, pulls it off and lays it on the Counter; he then pretended to view it again, I like it very well, said he, but your Purse much better, and instantly snatching it up, runs away with all speed, the Merchant follows him in the fine Cope, they both Run, one for his Money, the other for his Life, the Cheat got Ground of him, telling some People, he that followed him was distracted, others that he ran for a Wage. The Merchant pursues him, but the Thief was too nimble for him, and the People gazing at the fluttering of the Cope, never endeavouring to stop him; so that at length he lost sight of his Church Warden, and was forced to return Home with the loss of all the Money he had taken for a whole Week before.

THESE and many other Pranks were played by *Mucio*, which though they may seem Ludicrous and Tricks, without Bloodshed, or any great Damage, but to those that were Losers, yet the Law calling it Theft and Robbery; *Mucio* being for

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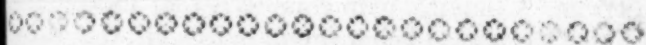
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pized by the Goldsmith he had robbed of the Chalice, in St. Germain's-Fair, he was condemned and executed upon full Evidence of his many Villanies, as he justly deserved.



NOVEL X.

The Law of Divorce. A comical Intrigue of a Gentleman, who fell in Love with his own Wife, in a Mask, and after many Amorous Addresses enjoyed her in the Dark, and was enraged at his Disappointment.

THE Wars which for many Years had infested Italy, occasioned that Country to be so extremely depopulated, that *Dulcinus* King of *Lombardy*, an ingenious Prince, and Fertile in all witty Experiments, took a great deal of Care to Re-people it: He publish'd an Edict, forbidding all young Men upon Pain of Death, to live Batchelors, past the Age of fourteen Years. He contributed out of his own Exchequer, towards Marriages that were unequal: He granted great Privileges to enforce Foreigners thither. But *Margaret* his Wife (call'd the *Voluptuous*) perceiving this new Law diminished her Husband's Revenue, bethought herself of a Way that might be as effectual, but not so chargeable to the Crown. She advis'd *Dulcinus* to grant a general Permission to his Subjects to change Husbands and Wives as they should think convenient. This Counsel was judg'd to be good.

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and immediately put in Execution, and the Prince being extremely pleased with this Project of his Queen, not only published an Act of Divorce, but promised Sanctuary and Protection to all Strangers and Criminals who embraced that Indulgence. This Declaration being rumoured in all the Kingdoms of *Europe*, there was nothing seen but Navies of People of both Sexes coming daily to establish themselves in *Lombardy*, and enjoy the Liberty of that Country; insomuch that in a short time there wanted Corn for the Inhabitants, though in itself the most fruitful Kingdom in the World.

AND it being the Part of a Sovereign to give good Example in the Things he Commands, the Prince and Princess were the first which began to reduce this Invention into Practice; and to demonstrate their Prudence and Justice, they desired to know how their Subjects would chuse, and upon what Grounds they would Change, and therefore made themselves Judges to examine the Reasons of such as demand Liberty of Divorce: *Dulcinius* interrogated the Men about the Complaint they made of their Wives, that he might learn from them the Inclinations of her, whom he designed to take in the Place of his own Wife; and *Margaret* having the same Chimera in her Brain in the examination of the Women, she would needs be Commissioned to hear their Objections. *Dulcinius* was not a little concerned how to determine the Accusations of the Husbands. He found they had all such just Reason on their Side, and told their Tales so smoothly, that though he could not suspect the Sincerity of their Informations, yet

though

thought it almost impossible that there should be so many ill Wives in the Universe as he found in his Muster-Rolls; and finding his Wife more tolerable than other Men's, though she was not without her Faults, he concluded it to be most eligible to stick to his first Bride, how strong soever his Desire was to have a Second. Those that were handsome, were either wanton or Proud, the ill-favoured were Jealous, the Witty imperious and Perverse, the Sober were Melancholy; and in short, no Woman but had some Quality inconsistent with the Sweetness of Society. He considered not that none were accused before him, but such as were Defective, and that those Husbands who were contented with their Wives never came near him to take the Benefit of the Proclamation.

QUEEN Margaret was not in such Trouble with her Jurisdiction; whether she was less Difficult to please, or that *Dulcinus's* Qualities were so indifferent, every one she met with had better; but the Princess found sufficient Cause for all Men to plead their Privilege, though the Prince was resolved not to part with her: He loved a new Wife better than an old one, but he found Margaret much better than the rest. The first Woman that was brought before the Princess, was a lively brisk Lass, of a good Presence, and sprightly Countenance, her Habit was neat and very Genteel, her Actions comely, and it might be easily discerned, that she endeavoured to please Mankind; you may guess, Mistress, says Margaret, as soon as she saw her, there is no necessity to examine what your Complaint is; you would have a Gallant, and your

Husband will not suffer you, you have Reason indeed to Change; Husbands of that Humour are troublesome, and you ought to be contented 'till you meet with one who will give you that Liberty: Alas! Madam, replied the good Woman, my Husband is none of those, and if I had thought one must have had Occasion of Complaint against a Husband before she could enjoy the Priviledge of Changing, I should not have troubled your Majesty or your Kingdom at this Time: My Husband Loves me, he is Young, Handsome, not Jealous in the least, and I have what Jewels and Cloaths I will ask: Why then will you be Changing, replied *Margaret* in a Huff, is it only for the bare Pleasure of Changing; Madam, said the Woman, Do not think it an inconsiderable Matter to break a Chain that must else hold me as long as I live. Did you never observe the greatest *Epiciuri*, Tower and Plume over a Ragoo of Beef, and neglect more delicate Dishes, because they are cloy with them: In earnest, cry'd *Margaret*, I see you are not all Sots of our Sex; I did not think the Caprice of Change could have been carried thus far. The Princess then Decreed, That a Woman should be placed at the Head of the Discontented Wives, and have the Choice of all Men that should happen to be Divorced: From this Examination she proceeded to a Second: It was a Pale, Faint, languishing Creature, who Negligence in her March proclaim'd her nature Lazy. What Complaint do you bring against your Husband, said *Margaret*? Madam, reply'd Pale, he Loves me too much, he is always Kissing

care

Caressing me, so that I can never be at Quiet. Oh! cryed the Princess, take away this Woman from the rest, or she will be of very Ill Example; and then setting down her Husbands Name in her Table-Book, Well, says she, if ever I do Change, this shall be the Man, who I will chuse for my Husband.

THE Queen had scarce settled herself in this Resolution, but in comes a Third Complainant, who by the Passion in her Face, made her conclude, that her Grievance would be quite contrary to the former: What, I warrant you are jealous, said the Princess, you would part with your Husband, because he Courts other Women? I wish with all my Heart, quoth the Woman, that your Majesty had been a Prophet, I should not then be so Miserable as I am; there is nothing in my Opinion, so convenient as to have such an Husband; he is always Neat and Perfumed; he is very often Abroad, and his Fear lest we should pry into his Affairs, obliges him to leave the Conduct of ours to ourselves: But alas! Madam, mine is not so well disposed; he never stirs from Home but at *Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide*, and judging of my Temper by his own, he never suffers me to go one Step out of Doors, but when he is my Gentleman Usher: This being adjudged one of the most lawful Causes of Divorce, the Good Wife had Liberty to change her Husband immediately. *Margaret* continuing her Office, a Woman crowded up to the foremost Rank, the Subject of whose Complaint was very new and Odd: Her Husband would by all means have her in Love with some-
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Body else, and the Poor Woman could not be persuaded; it is because the Gallant your Husband propos'd to you does not please you, said the Princess: No Madam, not so, reply'd the Woman, for he gives me my Choice; he tells me Honest Women are such Dragons in an House, that to rid me of this ill Quality, he values not who Cares for me: I must Confess Madam, my Honesty makes me a little Furious sometimes; Honour is a Jewel, and when a Woman can say with Confidence she fears no Body, she is seldom to be conquered in a Family Dispute. My Husband tells me, therefore he would have me like other Women; and that a Woman is more Tractable and Complaisant when she hath an Amorous Intrigue in her Head; but, Madam, I had rather Die a Thousand Deaths, than gratify him in that; my Honour is my Life, and I will renounce my Marriage, rather than the Privilege of speaking loud in my own House, as all Chaste Women may do. *Margaret* look'd upon this Woman to be absolutely Distracted, and made Signs to have her taken away without giving her any Answer; and she had Reason to dispatch her as soon as she could, another attending who had so much to say, that her very Story concluded the Proceedings of the Court.

SHE WAS a French Woman, originally of *Languedoc*, a Province of France; but so Handsome and Charming, the Princess herself could not look upon her but with Admiration: How is it possible, said she, any Man Living should desire to part with you? The Stranger return'd her no Answer to that, but told her, the Accusation which she brought

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brought, consisted of so many Particulars, that she humbly begg'd leave to relate her whole Story. She was not a Person to be denyed any Thing, the Queen therefore complied with her Request, and the unknown Lady returning Thanks for that Favour, began her Discourse in *Italian* (which she spoke as freely as if it had been her own Mother-Tongue) in the following Manner.

The History of NOGARET and MARIANA.

I Do not well know, whether I am to begin with the Description of the Knight and the Lady, which is the usual Prologue to all such Narrations, nor which is Proper for me, in regard your Highness hath me here in your Presence; and my Husband being in the next Hall with the King, you may see him too, if you please; nor shall I commence with any Impertinent Genealogy, it not being Material to your Highness who were my Ancestors, if you have but a true Account of my Affair. I am a Wife, and have a Complaint against my Husband: Hear it, I beseech you, with Patience and Judge of my Reasons.

I was born at *Montpelier*, a Town very famous for Handsome Women, and my Name is *Mariana*. A Gentleman who dwelt not far off in that Country, having Business at *Montpelier*, happened to see me by Chance, and liked me so well, he pretended he loved me. This Freedom and Confidence not being so formidable in our Country as in other Places, I must confess freely, I thought myself very much obliged to him: But the beginning

ginning of our Amour was not of long Duration ; for my Servant was called to the Court of *France*, upon an Affair not at all Pertinent to the Story ; and King *Philip* (Sir-named *Le-Bell*) conceived so great a Kindness for him, that he kept him about his Person. He gave me Notice of the Favour he was in, and for some Time I had reason to believe that he did not design to forget me ; he writ to me often, and his Letters seem'd to be Passionate, but the Manner of the Court being to forget all former Obligations, *Nogaret* by Degrees became Lazy, writ but Seldom, and at length quite neglected it.

I PAST two whole Years without hearing one Word of him ; but about the Third Year, being sent by the King his Master to Pope *Boniface*, passing through *Languedec*, either by Accident or Design he came to *Montpelier* : Without Vanity, I may say, I had the Reputation of being the Handsomest Woman in the Province, I was grown somewhat Fatter than when *Nogaret* first saw me, my Neck and Proportions were better Shaped, and he also was grown the finest Gentleman in *France*. We had no great trouble to revive our old Flame, I saw nothing in all *Languedec* to be compared to *Nogaret*, and he vowed as heartily he had seen nothing in all *France* or *Italy* so lovely as myself.

THE Trick of Inconstancy he had played me in his first Voyage, made me not rely too much upon his Protections then, I remembered he had promised as stoutly before, and forgot it almost as soon as out of sight ; but he made such fair Pretences

for his Silence, and I had so great a Desire they should be true; that I assisted the Cheat, and contributed to my own Deception.

His Fortune and Duty required his Return, he stay'd not long at *Montpelier*; but he gave me sufficient Reason to believe, that what he left behind him this Time was much dearer to him than it was before: He writ to me from all Places upon the Road; there was not a Fashion in the Court of *France*, but I had the Pattern, one of the First; and the kindness of the King of *France* having raised him to a Rank in which he needed not fear being disappointed, if he demanded me of my Parents; which he did with so much Ardour and Advantage on my Side, that he easily obtained me. I was conducted to *Lyons*, where *Nogaret* met me, and our Marriage being Celebrated there, my new Husband conducted me to Court, with an Equipage more like a Triumph than a private Train.

THE King received *Nogaret* with great Demonstrations of Joy, the Queen honoured me with Presents and Caresses; and if I had the Pleasure to see *Nogaret* out-do all the young Lords of his Age; he had the Satisfaction to hear his Choice commended by every one that saw me. Three or Four Months we continued at this Rate, with so much Felicity and Content, both to the one, and to the other, that I cannot recal that happy Time without being Melancholy to think it lasted no longer; But Madam, can you believe what I am now going to tell you? The first Transports of Joy were scarce past, but the Names of Husband and Wife became insupportable to us.

Nogaret

garet increased daily in Esteem and Reputation, and I may say the Air of the Court was no Diminution to my Beauty. Had not Nogaret been my Husband, I should have had need of my whole Stock of Virtue to have kept me from Loving him more than I ought; and he protested, had I not been his Wife, he had died for Love of me before that, but the indispensable Necessity of Loving one another, gave us continual Temptations to hate. We could not be alone Half an Hour together, but it was troublesome; if Custom or Caprice put us upon any Caresses, they went against the Hair, and we seemed only to acquire ourselves of an ungrateful Duty that lay upon us, without the least Kindness or Satisfaction in the World. Not but that we had a Foundation of Respect one for another, which indeed nothing could destroy.

NOGARET lived with me very Honourably, and I would have Dyed a Thousand Deaths before I would have been deficient in my Duty to him; but we look'd upon one another as good Friends, who being assured of each others Affections, Love on, but in a quiet and Serene Kind of a Way, without the least Passion or Transport. This sort of Civility gives the good Woman all the Privileges her Rank requires of her Husband, and secures the Man against all Tempests at home; but this is not enough for Young Hearts, who expect something farther; they would have Love continue with the same Warmth it began, for they think they, when that which ought to be the effect of Love, proceeds only from Policy and Com-

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pliance, Marriage becomes a heavy Burthen to those who are any thing delicate.

THESE Considerations rendring us unquiet and morose, Signior *Colonna*, one of *Nogaret's* Particular Acquaintance began to perceive it. This Man was famous all over *Europe* for the Affronts he put upon Pope *Boniface*. *Nogaret* made a Journey with him to *Italy*, and besides the Familiarity which travelling together produces; he was a lovely Person and very Judicious; he prest my Husband to let him know the Occasion of his Melancholy, and assuring him he should hold his Friendship suspected for the Future, unless he vouchsafed that mark of his Affection; he at length forced it from him, that it was his Disgust of me. How, says *Colonna*, disgusted with Madam *Nogaret*? Tell me I beseech you, do you know any Woman Living, more Handsome, or more Worthy of your Love than she? 'Tis not of her Beauty I complain. replied my Husband, I must confess that is Great, and any Man but a Husband might be happy in it: But tell me, pray, of what Use is that Beauty? Of what Use, said *Colonna*, for whose, or for what Use should your Wife be but for yours? Do you make no difference between an Handsome and an ill-favoured Woman? And if you restrain the Pleasures of Matrimony only to the Eye, is it not more Pleasant for an Husband when he comes Home, to find a young, a lively, and a neat Woman ready to embrace him, than to be received by a dirty, homely, loose bodied Slattern? Ha! my dear Friend reply'd *Nogaret* in a Scornful Way, a Wife is al-

ways Handsome enough, considering how little her Husband Regards her: A Man of Honour lives with a homely Woman, as well as with a Handsome, and hath the Advantage of Loving a Handsomer, if he can find her; whereas when a Man hath such a Wife as mine, seems to have lost his Wits when he addresses to another. The Ladies that know her send him back to his Wife, as one he must needs know is handsomer; and so he may call upon all the Saints, and swear as many Oaths as he pleases that he Loves her, and not persuade her at the Last. Had said he, were I but the Husband of such a Woman, (naming one of the most ill-favoured in the Court) with what pleasure could I tell Madam *Nogaret*, She was the Handsomest Person in the World? She would believe me, because she would know it was true, she would Think herself obliged by my Commendations, and perhaps Recompence them by some Favour or other; but should I now make this Compliment to any other Lady of the Court, she would believe I did but Rally; for she knows in her Heart that Madam *Nogaret* is Handsomer.

This Dialogue happened in a Hall where we usually dined, and there being a close Arbour on one side of it, into which after Dinner I had accidentally retired to repose myself, it was my Fortune to hear every Word they said: I was not at all surprized at the beginning of their Discourse, had my Judgment been asked in the same Case, I should have said as much of *Nogaret*, as he did of me; but when I heard him with himself married to the homely Lady he named, I could

not for my Life forbear bursting into a Laughter ; *Colonna* thrust his Head into the Arbour to see who it was that Laughed : He found me sitting there alone with a Book in my Hand, hearkning with great Tranquillity at what past between them, as if I had not been concerned in the least. In earnest, Madam, said he, this may be called the House of Miracles: The Man of all *France* who hath the handsomest Wife, wishes he had the homeliest, that he might have the pleasure of making Love to his own. The Lady of the whole World which deserves best of her Husband, receives the Assurance of his Disgust with a Laugh, What kind of Creatures are you two? You, says he, to *Nogaret*, since your own Wife is worthy of your Love, why do you not Love her? Come into this Arbour and tell me your Reasons: Alas reply'd *Nogaret*, with a smiling Disdain, I have so much Liberty to say what I will to her, that I have nothing to say. And can you hear this, says *Colonna* to me, and be merry; Why should I not be merry, replied I, without any Disorder; Is it not Pleasant enough to make any Body Laugh? Yes, without doubt replied the *Italian*, your Husband's Discourse would make any one Laugh that was Indifferent; but I could not have thought Madam, you had been under that Character: It is the best Course I can take, replied I; for to speak the Truth, I am so much of *Nogaret's* Mind in all that he hath said, that I cannot in justice Condemn him. Come, come away, said my Husband to *Colonna*, taking him by the Arm, let us take a little Air, you have kept such a stir with the Name of Husband and Wife, that

the very pronouncing them so often, hath given me the Head-Ach.

As soon as he had spoke these Words they went forth together, and immediately after my Mantua Woman bringing me Home an odd kind of Gown of my own particular Invention, I was so well pleased with it, I would needs go to wait upon the Queen in it. I met her in her Coach going to her Devotions, whither I had no mind to follow her; and not having found two or three Ladies at Home which I went to Visit, I resolv'd to attend Her Majesty's Return in the Garden belonging to the Palace. I had promised my Coach to a Friend of mine that Evening, so that I sent it away to her, and chusing the most private Walks I could find in the Garden, I entertained myself with Solitary Thoughts.

BUT, Madam, observe I beseech you the strangeness of my Destiny; I was alone, not so much as any of my Train at the Garden Gate, I was Masqued, which formerly they wore very small in *France*; by Accident my Husband and Signior *Colonna* pass'd by the Place where I was, and seeing me a Personable Woman, and walking alone in the Garden, my Husband had a Fancy to Address me; he had never seen that Gown I was in at that Time, and he had left me in another when he went out; so not having the least Suspicion who I was, he began with a very high compliment about the Excellency of my Shape. This Encounter seem'd Pretty. I had a Mind to divert myself with it a little, and dissembling my Voice as much as I could, I pretended to be a Law-

yer.

yer's Wife in the Country, who knew nothing of the Court, and seconded *Nogaret's* Mistake so well, that it never came the least into his Head that I was otherwise than what I told him; he was in a mighty Rapture, nothing but Praises and Protestations in his Mouth; he admired sometimes my Shape, sometimes my Neck, my Hair the finest he ever had seen, my Eyes, my Motion, all that little he saw beneath my Masque, all Excellent, and all enchanted him.

COLONNA thought good to pull him away by the Sleeve and endeavour to break off a Conversation which he began to be jealous of already, but he could not get him from me; he vowed he would follow me to the end of the World, and in short, when we parted, he went away the most in Love of any Man Living: *Colonna* look'd upon this Phrensy with Compassion, I heard him Conjure him in *Italian* (which I understood) not to concern himself with a Person which for ought he knew, might be nothing less than what she pretended; that *Paris* was full of such kind of Cattle, who pretended highly to Innocence and Prudence, tho' they knew more Roguery perhaps than any that interrogated them; but *Nogaret's* Ears were deaf to all such Admonitions; and he was very importunate for leave to wait upon me at my Lodgings: I us'd all the Authority I began to have over him to oblige him to excuse me: I told him I had a jealous Husband, who would never suffer such Persons as he to enter within his Doors; that I should Judge of the Effects I had produced in his Heart, by the Respect he should pay to my Desires;

that he should satisfy himself I was not an ungrateful Woman, and that I should find out a Way sometime or other, of satisfying his Curiosity more securely: He withdrew upon this, much pleased with that Hope; and I having found an Opportunity to tread upon *Colonna's* Toe, I signed to him that I would speak with him; he followed me to a Place I had marked to him with my Eye, and *Nogaret* being too apprehensive of my displeasure to follow him, he attended at one End of the Walk, very impatient to know what it was I had to say to him: When I saw my Husband at too great a Distance to understand what I said; *Colonna*, said I, I am Madam *Nogaret*, he was like to have Laugh'd out at that Word, but squeezing him by the Hand, Hold your Peace, *Colonna*, said I, this Intrigue is pleasant enough to be carried on a little farther; do you go and find some unknown Coach that may carry me Home, and come and fetch me there as soon as you can, we will Laugh at our Leisure at what is past, and to come.

COLONNA returned to *Nogaret* with so great an Inclination to Laugh, he had much ado to contain; he told my Husband I enquired who he was, and how I might write to him; and having accompanied him to the King's Appartment, he slipped suddenly from him, and getting into the first of his Friends Coaches he could see in the Court, he came to take me up where he left me.

THIS *Italian* was a real Friend of my Husbands, and upon any other Occasion but this, I could not have prevailed with him to have engaged in any Treachery

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Treachery against *Nogaret*, but he thought he should do him a particular piece of Service, to revive his Passion for me, and he Judged this Intrigue as likely, and as Innocent to accomplish it, as could possibly be thought on.

BEING got Home, I pulled of my new Gown, charged my Woman to let no Body see it, nor to tell any one that I had ever worn it; and having put on that again in which *Nogaret* had left me that Morning, I consulted with *Colonna* which way to Spin out this Comedy. As to my Husbands neglect of me I was altogether insensible, and I had no design of curing him of that by this Stratagem; but I found the Story would be pleasant, and resolved to pursue it to the utmost: I had not Wit enough to have invented it; but since Fortune had been so propitious, I resolved as much as I could to improve it.

COLONNA encouraged my Resolution, and returning to *Nogaret*, said as many good Things of me then, as he had done bad before he knew me: In earnest, said he, the unknown Lady in the Garden is very Handsome, I see no Body at Court hath a better Presence, and if what her Mask hides be as graceful as what is discovered, believe me she is the greatest Beauty in the World: *Nogaret* embraced him for this News, as having told him something extremely to his Advantage, and then earnestly urging his Assistance in the Discovery who I was; he protested he had never been so much in Love in his Life. I increased this Passion by three or four Interviews, where I must needs say,

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I used the utmost of my Skill to triumph over the Error of my fantastical Husband.

It was then Carnival Time in *France*, in which the People run up and down the Streets in Companies in *Masquerade*, and the Town was full of Diversifements. The manner in which *Nogaret* and I lived permitted us not to be often in the same Design; we had each of us our Society, and when he was gone abroad with his Clan, I drest myself in Cloaths he did not know, and taking only two of my Women, whom I had enjoyned strictly to make no mention of my Name, I followed him from one Company to another, to add new Smart to his old Wound if it were possible. The alteration a Mask gives to a Voice, disguising mine so well, that *Nogaret* never suspected me to be any Body but the unknown Lady in the Garden, and under that Quality I could not speak one Word but enchanted him.

He conjured me by all that he could imagine would prevail, to give him an Opportunity to wait upon me at Home; but he remembered the Jealous Husband I had mentioned in our first Conference, and that brought me off there; and when from the Proposition of Visits he came so low as to be contemted with the bare Sight of me now and then. I told him I had no great Confidence in Courtiers, and I would have a little farther Experience before I would discover myself; that he persisted in his earnestness to see me, or attempted to have me watched, I would leave my House the next Day, and conceal myself so well for the future, he should give me over for lost.

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THIS Fear kept him in the Temper I would have him; but to requite his Complaisance, I sent him several Letters, which *Colonna* caused to be transcribed, and I received several of his Answers. I had many of these Regales from him while the Carnival lasted; but that growing near to an end, and *Nogaret* pressing daily for some Ease of his Martyrdom, as he called it, I resolved to put an End to this Comedy, and give him a Sight of me. I appointed him a Meeting at a Country House about Three Miles from the City, where I told him I had got leave of my Husband to retire for some Days; he had like to have died for Joy at the News, he griped my Hand with such Transport, he forgot he hurt me, and from the Night in which I gave him that Assignment, to the Day he was to meet, he took so little Rest I began to pity him; he was in a perpetual Trouble, changed his Place every Quarter of an Hour, and hardly slept a wink, but at length the desired Day arrived.

NOGARET by Agreement was not to come to the Rendezvous till after Sun-Set, yet he came into my Chamber, (we not lying together) in the Morning before Day, ready Drest; I pretended to admire his Diligence, and asked him what might be the Cause. He told me, he was to receive an Order from the King to be executed by him, and that in Expectation of it, he was to be ready all Day; this Invention made me Smile, and resolving to put my Prevaricator to it as much as I could, Will this Order, said I, hinder you from Supping to Night, with a certain Friend of mine, to whose House I have engaged to bring you

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you along with me? Yes, doubtless, replied *Nogaret* a little hastily, it will hinder me, for perhaps it will be Night before I can Execute it: Alas! said I, and how comes it to pass that you Dress you before Day, for an Affair which you believe cannot be dispatched before Night; you know my exactness, replied my Dissembler, in what relates to my Duty to my Master, I had rather be ready Twelve Hours too soon, than have his Business stay for me one Moment: Good, my Lord, replied I, taking him by the Hand, be of my Company to Night, let me persuade you, I do not often trouble you with Importunities, but I must needs tell you, you will Disoblige me exceedingly if you refuse me this Time.

My Husband always carried himself with great Respect towards me; for when under the Name of the Country Lawyer's Wife, I desired to know his Opinion of his own Spouse; he still stopped my Mouth, and told me it was Sacred, and not to be discovered; I confess I have no great Passion for her myself; but I have so much esteem for her, I would die a thousand Deaths before any should speak ill of her, and for me to speak well of her I suppose is none of your Design.

THIS moderate Husband of mine having denied me a thing I had so earnestly Requested, he disguised his Refusal with the best Reasons he could think off; but all that would not discourage me. I kissed him, I caressed him, I upbraided him, and desired his Compliance, as the only thing I would ever ask him again: Alas! I expected not he should promise me, I knew as well as he

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what obliged him to the Contrary ; but it pleased me not a little to give him this Disquiet, as a Punishment for his Contempt of me : To be short, in despite of my Complaints and Reproaches, away he went in Order to his Assignment, and that none might take Notice of his Journey, he would not use a Horse of his own, but took a Hackney in a By-place of the City, and without any of his Servants, away he went to the House where I had appointed him to meet ; I was got thither some Hours before him, for besides that he was not to come before Night, and I went from Home presently after Dinner ; he had an unlucky Accident by the Way, which gave him a stop, he was very ill Mounted, and the Hopes he had, so much employed his Thoughts, that he regarded not which Way his Beast went ; It was late, so that the Darknes and Dust Concurring, his Horse led him fairly into a Slough, from which he had much ado to disengage himself.

HAD this Misfortune happened to an ordinary Lover, there had been no great Matter in it ; Love takes delight many Times to Sport it self with the impatience of Lovers, but to have it happen to a Husband, going to an appointment with his own Wife ; and this Lady he solicited with so much Zeal, (without knowing her) and went to meet in despite of so many Dangers and Impediments, to be daily at his Disposing in his own House, was so pleasant a thing, as perhaps the like never happened before.

POOR *Nogaret* finding himself in a stinking Bog, upon an insensible Jade, who despised the Correction

rection, both of his Hand and Heel, made a Thousand Vows to Love to deliver him out of so Villainous a Place; he thought once to have alighted off his Horse, and tried to have disengaged himself on Foot; but besides that the Slough was deep and muddy, he had but one pair of Breeches about him, and was unwilling to defile them in such an Adventure; he Kicked, he Spur'd, he Swore, he Repined; but that he might have done long enough, had not the *Officious Colonna* come in luckily to his Assistance.

THIS good Man imagining very discreetly, that this Intrigue betwixt *Nogaret* and me, could not probably be discovered without some Kind of Displeasure, came to Prevent by his Presence any ill Consequences that might arise: The Moon was up, and *Nogaret* knew him by the Light of it, he cried out to have him come to him; Ah! my Dear Friend, said he, (with a Voice trembling betwixt Choler and Cold) help me, I beseech you. I can do no more, I have been two long Hours in this Slough, and without your Assistance, I am like be here all Night: *Colonna* knew him, and seeing him in such a Condition, for an Enterprize which deserved better Luck, was so pleased with the Adventure, that he could not answer him for Laughing: How, said *Nogaret* to him, in a Rage, Is it thus you relieve your Friend, when he hath so much Need of your Assistance? What Assistance would you have, reply'd *Colonna*, Laughing all the while, I am neither Plow-man nor Porter, and it would require all their Assistance to help you out of the Mire; what in the Name

of ill Luck do you here? And how came you to March alone in the Night without any Servants, and upon an ugly Jade that is none of your own? We will satisfy you with these Questions hereafter, replied *Nogaret*, much discomposed with Anger and Shame, this is no Time for such Narratives as these, but do what you can I beseech you to deliver me.

COLONNA alighted, took his Hackney by the Bridle, spoke to him, bantered him, 'till at last, with much ado, he got him to a Place where *Nogaret* might throw himself off on his Back upon the Ground. When he was Landed they Marched together to the next Village, where my poor Husband was scraped and made clean, and *Colonna* sent to get another Horse for him, for his old Hackney was Dying; but my Husband's Impatience not suffering him to stay for another, he leaped upon *Colonna's*, and rid away full speed to the place of Assignment. I was in Bed when he arrived, seeing the Hour past, and not daring to venture back to *Paris* in the Night, I resolved to lye where I was, being assured I could justify my Absence, if it should be required. *Nogaret's* Transport was so great, when he found himself alone in my Chamber, that he forgot to bring the Candle to my Bed-side; he threw himself upon his Knees, and taking me by the Hand, he Kiss'd it with so much Joy and Affection, I was afraid he had been Mad.

I CONFESS I began to be troubled at this Mistake, and should have thought myself much indebted to Fortune had she done that in my Favour,
which

which she had done in this. He threw himself upon the Bed, embraced my Knees through the Counterpain, and gave me a Thousand Thanks in the best Language his Love could Suggest; but this Transport being a little over, he drew the Curtains wide open, and in the unknown Person he so tenderly Loved, he discovered the same Woman he had so long despised; he swore a great Oath, I think it is my Wife, and stepping a little back to inform himself better, he fell down under the Chairs, so amazed at this Adventure, I doubted he would never have recovered; no, sir, said I, it is none but your Wife, you see how dangerous it is for you to commit yourself to the Conduct of your Heart, which you never suspected to be guilty of this Mistake; *Mariana* is so indifferent to you under the Name of *Madam Nogaret*, that you could not think she could Charm you in another Shape; I am nevertheless the Lady in the Mask you were so taken with in the Garden.

THIS Shape, these Eyes, this Neck, in short, all this Person you so passionately desired when unknown, is the very same you look upon so disdainfully now you know me; I sent you Word in one of my Letters, that your Passion would be over as soon as you saw me: I know not whether *Nogaret* tired with these Reproaches could endure them no longer; or whether his Indignation for being deceived augmented the Horror he express'd at the Sight of me, but he ran down Stairs as fast as he could, and calling for his Horse, away he went for *Paris* with all speed, as ill satisfied now with his Assignment as he ever had been pleased.

HE was scarce gone a Moment but *Colonna* came in, I told him what had past at our Interview, and I understood from him what had befallen *Nogaret* by the way; I could not forbear laughing for my Heart, when I fancied him in the Puddle; but my Kindness returning after a while, I dispatcht *Colonna* after him, lest some new Accident might befall him; I look'd upon this as a Jest, and hoped *Nogaret* would have thought so too, but I was mistaken in my Opinion, he was so much enraged at the Fallacy, that he hath not forgiven me to this Day: *Colonna* told him, it was Fortune that began it, and if either of us had Reason to Complain, certainly it was I: He replied, That it was an imposture, and that a Woman who could disguise herself so well, would act the greatest and most horrible Impieties whenever she had a Mind to it. Seeing no way to mollify him, I propos'd he should come before your Majesty to grant us that Privilege which you are pleas'd to afford such Husbands as are dissatisfied with their Wives.

He seem'd averse at first, considering the Condition he stood in, in *France*; but the good Men that are burthened with their Wives are willing to try any Experiments that may ease them. Upon these Terms we left our Country, and are now present in your Court; but Madam, such is the Inconstancy of my Stars, that now I have the Liberty of parting with *Nogaret*, it makes me begin to think our Separation insupportable: I beseech you therefore, most excellent Princess (lying at her Feet) obtain of the King on my behalf, that *Nogaret* may not have the Permission he now Demands:

Demands: The necessity of our Loving one another begat our Antipathy, and who knows but the Freedom to hate may revive our Affections; she had scarce ended her Petition but *Dulcinus* came in to desire his Queen in the behalf of *Nogaret* to grant no such Permission to *Mariana*.

In short, this Couple took one another again, and loved as entirely as when they were first Married; and their Example was followed by many a good Man and his Wife, who went back to *France*, and by renouncing the Privilege of Divorce, demonstrated to the World, That Liberty to change takes away the desire to do it.

Soon after the Princes of *Italy*, to make void this pernicious Law, raised strong Forces, and deprived *Dulcinus* of his Kingdom.

NOVEL

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NOVEL XI.

The Noble Recompence. *A Contract of Marriage being entred into between two young Lovers, before it was celebrated, an old Nobleman falls in Love with her; and with much Reluctancy and Persuasion, they were both obliged to consent to his Marrying her. The Nobleman dies and leaves her all his Estate: She makes her first Love a Noble Recompence by Marrying him, and thereby enjoying the Estate and Honour.*

IN *Ascoli*, a City in the Kingdom of *Naples*, an honest Merchant's Son, called *Metran*, fell in Love with a Citizen's Daughter, named *Valeria*, who was reckoned the principal Beauty of the Place, and as there was an Equality in the Estates of their Parents; so the Inclinations and dispositions of the two young Persons seemed, as if they had been born for each other; but as unforeseen Chances happen in all Mundane Affairs; so these two Lovers, who seemed just entering into the Port of Happiness, were by a sudden Tempest driven into the Ocean, and at a great Distance from each other.

THE Father of *Valeria* was much obliged to a Nobleman who dwelt in that City, named *Belmont*, and under his Particular Protection, who upon several Occasions assisted and supported him; so that he thought it a Point of Gratitude to invite him to the betrothing of his Daughter, according

cording to the usual Custom of that Country ; to which *Bellamont* condescended, being willing to honour a Person for whom he had so great a Kindness. The Assembly met with all decent Pomp and Magnificence, and before them all, *Metran* promised that he would make *Valeria* his Wife, and she to take him for her Husband in the Face of the Church, on the Day that it should be agreed upon betwixt their Parents: Nothing now was wanting but only to proceed upon the Solemnities and Consummation of the Marriage, and a few Days were prescribed to prepare and Conclude it: But whether *Valeria* had added to her natural Beauty by her Nuptial Ornaments, which made her exceed all the rest of the Ladies, or that the Eyes of the Earl were more enlightened than before, her Charms had such a sudden Influence upon his Mind that he lost both his Judgment and Understanding at once ; he was very Ancient, and extremely afflicted with the Gout, which whether it were Hereditary, or proceeded from his own Intemperance in his Younger Years, ought to have deterred him from inrolling himself again under *Cupid's* Standard, where the old and the Gouty are seldom Welcome: He endeavoured to defend himself against the Assault which this Innocent Beauty had made upon his Reason ; but finding it Difficult, if not impossible, to subdue his Passionate Desires, he designs to cure himself by marrying her ; he thereupon goes to the Father of this fair Conqueress, and weeping like a Child, represents his Passion to him, so that *Bernardo* his Ancient Friend took Pity on him, and told him, he counted it a great Honour

and

and Condescension in him, that he should Request to have his Daughter in Marriage; but my Lord, said he, you know she is betroth'd to another, and this Engagement cannot be made Void without the Consent of both Parties: I shall, replied the Earl, deal bountifully with *Metran*, and provide so well for your Daughter, that neither of them shall Repent of complying with my Desires.

THIS News was carried by *Bernardo* to *Metran*, who, poor Man, received it as the Sentence of his Death, and indeed to rend so ardent a Love from his Heart, was no less than to tear his Soul from his Body; he fell presently into a Swoon, shewing thereby, that he could not grant so difficult a Request without the Loss of his Life: This raises Compassion in the Father, to see his Daughter so extremely beloved of him whom he had Chosen to be his Son-in-Law: He then goes to his Daughter and acquaints her with the Nobleman's Propositions, who made no Answer but by Sighs and Tears. At length she began to consider, that she was under the Power of *Metran*, and having given herself to him, it was not just in her to hearken to any such Offers: On the other side, she considered how extream Kind *Bellamont* had been to her Father, and that Ingratitude was a great Crime; She then opened the Flood-Gates of her Tears, tore her Hair, and had almost spoiled that fair Complexion which Nature had set on her Face; so little did she value that Beauty which she desired should be only pleasing in the Eyes of *Metran*.

THE Father having so little Encouragement from his Daughter to proceed in the Business; he goes again

again to *Metran*, who after many Convulsions in his Mind, as not being able to digest the bitter Thought of ruining his Pretensions to *Valeria*, took up a courageous Resolution, which at first may seem unkind, but being understood rightly was a Noble and generous Act, since the Philosopher says, That Perfect Love hath no other End than to procure the Benefit of the Person Beloved.

AND thus *Metran* would declare the Perfection of his Love to his dear *Valeria*; for knowing this Marriage would be so evidently Advantageous to her, he freely Resigned all that Love and Tenderness he had for her, to Promote her Advancement: The Father was so pleased with this Answer, That he embraced him with Tears, and told him, that he ought to account him the best Friend in the World, and the support of his Family, even above *Bellament*, who only studied his own Content, whereas *Metran* deprived himself of the only Good he had upon Earth in Consideration of *Valeria's* Happiness.

THE Father quickly acquaints his Daughter with the Self-denial and Condescension of *Metran*, purely out of Kindness to her; she could not believe it was true, unless she had it from his own Mouth: He coming into her Presence could hardly endure her Looks, which seemed to upbraid him with Perfidiousness and Disloyalty to desert her, and resign her up to another; and before they could speak, both Fainted away and fell to the Ground, their Faces turned Pale, and they were thought to be just expiring; but proper means being used, they at length recovered, and *Metran* made it plainly

plainly appear that it was excess of Love, and not Baseness or Treachery, which made him comply with the Nobleman's Desire, but the greatest Magnanimity that his Heart could shew to renounce the Delight of his Soul and the Joy of his Heart, only for her Advantage.

VALERIA could not at first apprehend the meaning of this subtle Discourse, her Soul being so united to that of *Metran's*, that she was persuaded that nothing but Death could divide them; What, says she, canst thou so easily forsake me, and so willingly give me to another? Ah! *Metran, Metran*, call you this Loving, and perfectly Loving? As for my Part, I should not only have Preferred you above a Lord, but before a Prince also, for I esteem not Men because of their Wealth and Grandeur, but for their own Personal Merits. Dear *Valeria* replied *Metran*, the Affection I bear you being as strong as Death, works now in me the same effect, since my vehement Desire of your Preferment makes me deprive myself of the greatest Happiness which I could possibly aspire to, and without which my Life will henceforward be but a Living Death: Live then my most beloved *Valeria*, Great, Honourable, Rich, by marrying *Bellamont*, and become the Glory of your Relations, whilst I Poor, Miserable, Unhappy and Forlorn *Metran*, waste the remainder of my sad and sorrowful Days amongst the distressed Lovers in Grief and Solitude.

A HEART as hard as an Adamant, could not but have relented at this woful separation; but the importunity of her Friends, the Surrender that *Metran* had made of her, and possibly a little Ambition, and

and hope likewise that her ancient Spouse would not trouble her long, and then she should be at her own Disposal; so influenced the Mind of *Valeria*, that retracting on both Sides the Words of betrothing, she was married the next Day to *Bellamont*, and thereby made a Countess, her Lord becoming so extremely fond of her, that he could not endure her Absence scarce a Moment: Mean while, *Metrin*, to whom it was as bad as Death to see his Mistress in the Arms of another, went away in Discontent, wandering through *Italy* and other Countries for some Years, often changing Place, but never altering in his Love and Affection to *Valeria*.

BELLAMONT had one Son by a former Wife, named *Hillary*, who was married, but had no Issue, it was generally Reported, that he was so bewitched by the Charms of a common Courtesan, that he deserted his Lawful Wife: This Creature perceiving *Hillary* doated on her, put him to very great Expences, in Rich Gowns, and all other chargeable Fooleries, which if he denied her, she impudently abused and affronted him; so that being no longer able to endure it, he one Day in a Passion used her like one of her Trade, stabbing of her in the Face with a Stillerro: This lewd wretch seeing herself Deprived of that little Beauty, which formerly procured her the Love of Mankind; she grew so desperate that she caused one of her Lovers to Murder *Hillary*; the Murderers making their Escape into the *Venetian* Territories.

HIS Son's untimely Death was a great Grief to the Old Nobleman, and finding himself deprived of Heirs, he Married this young Lady in Hopes of Issue,

Issue, had not Age and the Gout opposed his Desire. However, the Love he had for his Young Wife was a Charm to all his Troubles, which must be attributed to the Virtuous Discretion and Carriage of *Valeria*, who Complied with his Humours, and won his Heart; the Gout with other Maladies incident to Age, insensibly wasted the Earls natural Vigour, so that it brought him to the Mouth of the Grave; and being sensible of the great Care and Kindness his Prudent Wife had constantly shewed him, both in Health and Sickness, he resolved to make her his Heir, and gave her all he had, which he did authentically by his Last Will and Testament, and soon after went to his Grave in Peace.

DURING the Life of her Lord, *Valeria* endeavoured as much as possible to stifle the Thoughts of her first Love, but Death having broken the Bands, and set her at Liberty to make her own Choice, she resumed her former Flames, and resolved to shew *Metran* an Example of her Constancy and Fidelity; she therefore sends to his Father, desiring him to acquaint his Son with the Death of the Earl, and to require him to return home, she having something to acquaint him with, that might be to his Advantage: *Metran* was then at *Sens*, and endeavoured to divert his Melancholy among the stately Palaces and other Delights, with which the Coasts of that Country Abound; but neither the Sweetness of the Air, nor the Spring which lasts all the Year; neither the Wealth nor Magnificence of that Famous City could divert or allay his Trouble; but being now inform-
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ed of the Death of the Nobleman, his Hopes began to revive, that obstacle being Removed: He returns with all speed to *Ascoli*, where he was kindly received and heartily welcomed by *Valeria*, and soon perceived that Honours do not change the Manners of a Virtuous Woman, and to declare her Constancy, *Metran*, says she, because you so Generously yielded me up to another; whereby I am become a Rich Countess, I cannot but render you the Reward of your Kindness, Friendship and Self-dénial, and to make you Partaker of my Good Fortune, I do Promise you upon my Word and Honour, that I will Marry you after the Year of Mourning is ended, not being willing to infringe the decent Laws and Customs of my Country: At the end of this Term she performed her Engagement, and as *Metran* by his Resignation had made *Valeria* a Countess; so she had now advanced him to the Dignity or Estate of an Earl, preferring him before many others (who Courted her, with great Offers of Augmenting her Estate and Fortune) making him this Noble Recompence for his Fidelity, Perseverance, and unchangeable Love towards her.

NOVEL

NOVEL XII.

The Grateful Robber. *A Gentleman giving a Soldier a considerable Alms; in his return Home, was set upon by Three Thieves, who carried him into a Wood and resolved to kill him, but the Soldier being one of them, perswaded his two Fellows only to bind him to a Tree and at Midnight came and Released him.*

AS I studied the Laws in the University of Orleans, I heard a Scholar of *Tourain* relate the following History, which had been formerly told him from the mouth of him to whom this Accident happened.

A YOUNG Man of *Poitou*, a Merchant's Son, was sent to *Tours* by his Father, to dispatch some Affairs which concerned Commerce: This Youth was naturally Pitiful, and from his Youth inclined to give Alms to all that asked without Distinction of Persons, but tho' Charity be a Virtue, yet it ought to be Practised with Discretion, or else we may encourage the Wicked and Debauched Poor, and add Fewel to their Lusts and Immoralities, instead of Relieving and Supporting those Sober Beggars, whom Misfortune and Providence has reduced to Necessity.

THIS young Man walking one Day through the Streets of *Tours*, which seems like a Garden in the Midst of *France*, met a poor Soldier, who though meanly Apparell'd, had, notwithstanding, an honest Countenance; and asked his Charity with such a moving Grace, that *Cyran* (which was the

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Name of this Young Gentleman) found himself inwardly inclined to relieve him, as thinking he was no Common Beggar, and therefore instead of a Farthing, he pulled a Six-Pence out of his Pocket, and gave it him with Words of Consolation, wishing him a happy Return into his own Country, which the Soldier received in a very grateful Manner, saying, Sir, Heaven make me able to do you that Service which I desire I may do; you have bestowed your Bounty in my Pinching Necessity, which I hope I shall never be ungrateful of, since you have little less than saved my Life; which Words of Compliment being past they parted.

SOME few Days after *Cyran* having finished his Negotiation at *Tours*, departed from thence toward his own Country: But as he was crossing a Wood, Three Thieves suddenly issued out upon him, one seizing his Horse by the Bridle, whilst another setting a Sword to his Throat, Commanded him to alight, and follow them into the Thickest part of the Forest, a rude Entertainment and an imperious Command, yet such as must be obeyed; when they had led him into the thickest Part thereof, they rifled him and took away all his Money, being about a Hundred Crowns, with his best Goods, and his Cloak; they then consulted whether to kill him or not; that will be the safest Way, says one of them, for I know by his Speech he is an Inhabitant of this Country, and may raise an Hue and Cry upon us, whereby we may be taken; another, although Aged, he was of the same Opinion, for says he, if those of our Profession had killed him whom they lately Robbed in such a Po-

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rest, they would not have made such wry Mouths upon the Gibbet hard by. The Third (who was the Man that *Cyran* had so generously relieved, and now knew him again) Companions, said he, what good will his Life do us, for his Blood will certainly cry aloud for Vengeance against us: We shall have a Sermon, cryed one of the others, those that use this Trade, ought to stop their Ears against such Considerations, which are fit for nothing but to frighten Old Men and Children; the Dead tell no Tales, and the Voice of Blood is not heard, for he may be Dead and Rotten before ever his Carcase will be discovered in this Place: Friends replied the good Thief, I beg of you to Spare his Life, for which I will freely give the part of the Booty that is due to me, I will tell you a way how to save him, and yet provide for our own Security, let us bind him to a Tree, and leave him to his Fate, and so we shall not be guilty of Blood.

By his importunate and earnest Persuasions, they at length Consented to this Proposal, and *Cyran* was tyed to a Tree, with his own Garters, and they took his Horse and Furniture with them. The good Thief bowing toward *Cyran*, as if he had been binding of him, whispered him in the Ear, Friend take Courage, says he, I will come this Night and Release you; I have not forgot your Alms. These were Comfortable Words, but proceeding from the Mouth of a Thief, he did not much rely on them, yet not to appear ungrateful, he thanks him for the Kindness not yet received.

Thus he remains bound the rest of the Day, trusting in Providence, and expecting the uncertain

Event of the High-Way Man's certain Promise : Night coming on, the Horror of Darknefs and Death assailed him, hearing the Howling and Yelling of Wolves in the Forest ; and two of them were so bold as to approach him, but having viewed him, and seeming distrustful of their Strength, they presently retired, but soon after returned with greater Forces : This Beast is not only Cruel, but likewise so subtle and Cautious, that he is seldom surprized with the Traps and Snares that are laid for him ; he looks about him, he hearkneth, and is aware of the least Noise, which is wonderful in a Creature that is without Reason.

POOR *Cyran* now thinking that his last Hour was come, heartily recommends himself to Heaven, as one ready to give up the Ghost ; for now a Troop of Wolves came Yelling and Roaring toward him, to make a Supper of his Poor Carcass, when at that Instant that his Hope was turned into Despair, his Deliverer appeared, who willingly unloosed those Bonds, which he unwillingly had tyed ; we may well Imagine that he acknowledged this great Favour to this good Thief, who had now twice saved his Life in one Day, first from the Teeth of those Ravenous Lyons the Robbers, and now from the Greedy Wolves, who are Thieves that Live upon Prey.

CYRAN to shew his Gratitude, offers the Soldier to go with him to his own Habitation, and that he would Treat him as his Brother ; and that he would have him abandon that Miserable Life which doubtless would at length bring him to

shameful

shameful End, and that he would settle such a Salary upon him, as he would have Cause to be Contented therewith : The Soldier reply'd, Sir, it is my full Resolution to leave this Course of Robbing, of which I have for a great while had an Abhorrence; I intended therefore to Reform, and am truly Penitent for those many Mischiefs which I have been Guilty of; I never Killed any Man, but have been Present at Divers Murders : It was necessity that first engaged me in this Vile Calling, which for the Wicked Pleasure of gaining Money, so easily tempted me to continue in it, though all we got was soon spent in Lewdness and all manner of Debauchery; and now finding no sure Place of Retreat in *France*, where I am always in Danger of the Law; I am resolved to retire to some Hermitage, and desire your Prayers that I may be confirmed in executing this good Design.

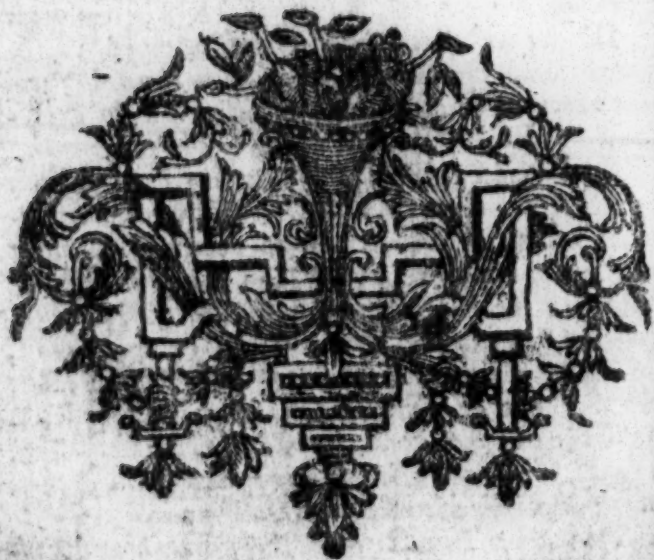
THIS Penitent Thief thinking that the Kindness he had done, was not a full Requital for his former Charity, he desired him to accept of his Part of the 100 Crowns; but *Cyran* not only refused it, but freely forgiving him, protested that if he would take the Pains to accompany him to the next Town, he would enlarge his Bounty towards him; but whether out of Distrust, or being fully satisfied with what he had done, he heartily Thanked him, and after mutual Embracings mixed with Tears, they parted never to see each other again.

THE other Two Thieves about two Months after being discovered by *Cyran's* Cloak and Horse, and accused of other Robberies, fell into the Hands

of the Provost Marshal, and were executed for the same

THE good Success of Alms-Deeds Shines so brightly in this Relation, that were there no other Motive to use Liberality towards miserable Persons, this is an Argument sufficient to incline the most Avaricious to stretch out their Hands for relieving them.

F I N I S.





T H E
C O N T E N T S
A N D

The Page where each NOVEL is to
be found.



N O V E L I.

THE Honourable Infidelity. A Nobleman in vain
soliciting a Young Woman to be his Mistress,
employs his Steward to bring her, with great
Offers to a Compliance; who pitying her Innocency,
earnestly dissuades her against it: She afterwards
being left a great Estate, marries the Steward as
a Reward for his good Counsel.

Page 5.

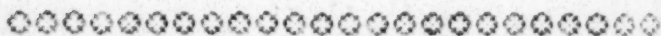
N O.

The CONTENTS.

NOVEL II.

*The Lucky Misfortune. A Young Woman and her
Lower fly from her Father's Anger, for marrying
without his Consent. He is killed by Thieves, and
she wandring about was met by a Gentleman, who
was taken with her Modest Countenance, being in
Man's Apparel, and brings her Home to his House.
His Wife falls in Love with her; but discovering
her Sex, became familiar with her, which her
Jealous Husband resenting, fires a Pistol at her,
with Powder only, and frightens her to Death.
He marries the young Widow.*

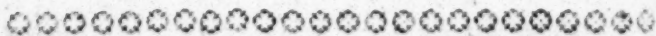
Page 22.



NOVEL III.

*The Cruel Fair One. A Wanton young Lady enter-
tains several Lovers with such Freedom, that her
Husband deserts her; and when she could not pre-
vail with him to return, she obliged one of her
Admirers to Murder him; for which she was
Beheaded.*

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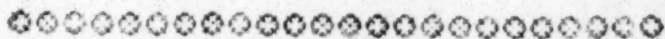
NOVEL IV.

*The Unparallel'd Friendship. A Gentleman being as-
saulted*

The CONTENTS.

saulted in the Night by his Rival under his Mistress's Window; kills him in his own Defence, for which he was Condemned to die; but his Friend, who assisted, was very desirous to Suffer for him: They were both Pardoned, and the Gentleman obtained the Lady.

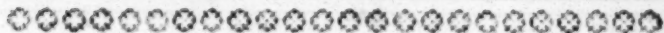
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NOVEL V.

The Constant Couple. Two Young Lovers escaping out of their own Country, for fear of their Enemies; after many Misfortunes, came at length into Flanders, where she became an Accomplish'd Soldier, and at a Siege they were both found dead in one another's Arms.

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NOVEL VI.

The Loves of Edgar King of England. Who sending his Favourite to give him an Account of the famed Beauty of Elfreda, Daughter to the Duke of Devonshire: He fell in Love with her, and giving her an indifferent Character, he married her himself with the King's Consent; but the Rumour of her Superlative Handsomness encreasing, the King made her a Visit, and discovering his Favourites Treachery, kill'd him in Hunting, and made her his Queen.

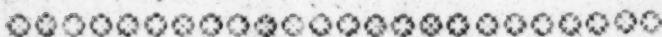
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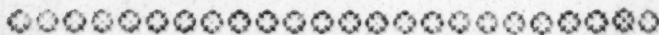
NOVEL VII.

The Deluded Coxcombs. Two Captains of the Gallies, being deeply in Love with two young Ladies, were persuaded by one of the Slaves, that he could by Witchcraft procure them the Enjoyment of them, and obliging them to strip in a cold Winter's Night and suffer him to tie them to a Tree, run away with their Clothes and Money, and gained his Liberty. A pleasant Intrigue. Page 84.



NOVEL VIII.

The Two Alphonso's. A Young Man and a Young Woman so exactly resembled each other, that the Difference could not be easily discerned, which occasioned several surprizing Mistakes and Misadventures. At length to secure themselves they fled into Africa and were Married. 97.



NOVEL IX.

The Cheats of Mucio an accomplished Thief, with his Comical Tricks and Shams to defraud many People of their Money and Goods, which brought him at length to the Gallows. 118.

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NOVEL X.

The Law of Divorce. A Comical Intrigue of a Gentleman, who fell in Love with his own Wife, in a Mask, and after many Amorous Addresses enjoyed her in the Dark, and was enraged at his Disappointment. Page 135

NOVEL XI.

The Noble Recompence. Two Young Lovers having contracted Marriage, before it was Celebrated, a Nobleman falls in Love with her, and with much Reluctance they were both obliged to Consent to his marrying her. The Nobleman Dies, and leaves her all his Estate. She makes her first Love a Noble Recompence, by making herself his Wife, and thereby enjoying the Estate and Honour. 161.

NOVEL XII.

The Grateful Robber. A Gentleman giving a poor Soldier a considerable Alms; in his Return Home was Set upon by Three Thieves, who carried him into a Wood and resolved to kill him, but the Soldier being one of them, prevailed that he should only be bound to a Tree, and at Midnight came and Released him. 169

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